

B.A.R.

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1528 15TH STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103

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Feds Blocked Gay March Plans

Objected to Using Mall, Underestimated March Attendance

by Wendell Ricketts

One of the most frustrating moments at the recent Lesbian and Gay March on Washington came when U.S. Park Service Police announced their crowd estimate. Try as they might, the Park Service said they could count no more than 200,000 lesbians and gay men. "We knew ahead of time that they were going to give us a very low estimate," noted national media co-director Nick Curto. "The handwriting was on the wall."

Curto was aware, as many were not, of precisely how uncooperative the National Park Service had been during the months of preparation for the

March. As National March logistics coordinator Judy Greenspan noted, "The Park Service was hostile to this event from the beginning. We had originally

wanted to start the March at the Washington Monument grounds, because we felt the Ellipse was too small. They wouldn't allow it. (Continued on page 2)



Try counting heads here

(Photo: Photo Graphics/Darlene)

Most Charges Dropped Against Eureka Teacher

by Jay Newquist

A gay schoolteacher from Eureka pleaded not guilty last week to two felony counts of oral copulation with two teenage minors. Brian J. Silver, 47, now awaits an intervention hearing on Jan. 15 to determine if there is enough evidence to proceed with the case. Silver admits he had sex with one of two minors named in the charges during the summer of 1985. But the computer/math consultant said he was led to believe the youth was over 18.

Of the original 19 felony counts Silver faced, 17 have been dismissed.

Silver reported he believed the entire case would be dropped. One witness who was "coerced" to testify against him has recanted his story, Silver said.

An openly gay fourth and fifth grade teacher at Jefferson Elementary School since 1974, Silver said he was run out-of-town by a homophobic witchhunt against Eureka's small gay and lesbian community.

He has since sold his home and moved to San Francisco where he is organizing his defense. Silver feels he is a target because he is somewhat prominent in the Eureka gay community.

Not all of Humboldt County's gay people, however, support Silver. In a letter to the editor of the B.A.R., 19 gay and lesbian signators disputed Silver's claims of a homosexual backlash.

"Many folks in the local gay community were quite relieved when Mr. Silver was arrested. We

abhor the societal stereotypes of gay people as 'child molesting homosexuals,'" said the letter.

"What we abhor even more though, are people whose alleged activities perpetuate those stereotypes," the signers said.

CHARGE DENIED

The signators include openly gay teachers, doctors, merchants and parents who "have never been supportive of Mr. Silver."

One signator was a former student of Silver's.

Silver, the father of a 22-year-old son, admits that he has always liked being around young people, "but I never knew how dangerous it was until now."

The B.A.R. Story of Silver's case exploded elsewhere in Eureka, prompting local officials such as Silver's school principal, the police chief and town probation officer to issue heated denials they were out for Silver's head.

They did not, however, discuss (Continued on page 2)

1987 In Review

'Zaps' Return; Assaults Rise; Last Bath Closes

by Ray O'Loughlin

After an exciting campaign, Sup. Harry Britt narrowly lost his bid to become the first openly gay politician elected to Congress. But two weeks later, Tom Brougham succeeded in being elected to the Peralta Community College Board, putting the East Bay gay and lesbian political community on the map.

And so it went throughout the year 1987—losses and setbacks offset by some victories. Through it all went a lot of hard work. We managed to stall most of Sen. John Doolittle's legislation in Sacramento that would have snuck into law much of the LaRouche agenda that California voters had rejected the previous November. But we took a beating by the U.S. Supreme Court again—this time they denied Gay Games' petition to use the word "olympic" in its title. Shortly after that, Dr. Tom Waddell, Gay Games founder, died of AIDS.

Nevertheless, despite the challenges, nearly a quarter million gay people turned out for Lesbian and Gay Freedom Day letting the world know our lives, our numbers, and our spirits continue to grow.

APRIL: LOSERS AND WINNERS

Sup. Harry Britt started off April by losing to Nancy Pelosi in the race to represent the 5th Congressional District. The lesbian and gay vote turned out in record numbers for Britt but he lost in a cliff hanger by a mere 4,000 votes—38,000 to 34,000. In his concession speech, Britt praised the unity of the community in his campaign that raised gay political involvement to a new level. We won more than we lost, said Britt.

Transsexual Stephanie Lawrence, 32, of Phoenix, Arizona, sued her former wife for visitation rights with the couple's son. A former financier, Lawrence said she had been forced to be a topless model and a prostitute to



Harry Britt reached for the brass ring and missed (Photo: Photo Graphics/Darlene)

support herself because of discrimination against transsexuals.

★ ★ ★

Mayor Dianne Feinstein was asked to consider appointing a gay or lesbian to the San Francisco School Board following the resignation of Dick Cerbatos. She didn't.

★ ★ ★

The Gay Softball League opened its 10th. season.

★ ★ ★

Santa Clara supervisors adopted a report by the county's AIDS Task Force calling for county expenditures for education, services and the prohibition of AIDS discrimination.

★ ★ ★

Gov. George Deukmejian vetoed funds for treatment of substance abuse among people at risk of AIDS as part of his cuts from the state's AIDS budget. At the last minute, however, state Health Director Dr. Ken Kizer

(Continued on page 16)

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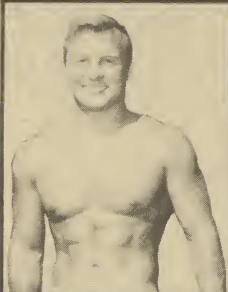
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The D.C. Police, veterans of many a mass demonstration, still didn't quite know how to handle this bunch
(Photo: Photo Graphics/Darlene)

Gay March

(Continued from page 1)

Then they cut off over a quarter of the Ellipse with a snow fence for a Christmas pageant, and we had to work around that.

"They did everything they could to discourage us from using the Mall as a rally site. Essentially, we organized the March despite the Park Service. If they'd had their way, we wouldn't have had it," said Greenspan.

In addition, at nearly the last minute, the Park Service withdrew its permission for the Names Project Quilt to be opened on the Mall. If it had not been for string-pulling by San Francisco Rep. Nancy Pelosi, the unveiling would not have taken place.

Those incidents, coupled with the Reagan administration's obvious interest in underestimating dissent, might have been enough to convince most people that the "handwriting" Curto referred to was indeed in place.

Major Richard Cusick of the U.S. Park Police, however, insisted otherwise. "This figure was not reduced by the federal government, by the National Park Service, or by the United States Park Police," he said. "We believe it is a fair and accurate estimate, and we're not going to change it. If anything," he concluded, "I would say we overestimated by five or 10 percent."

According to Cusick, there were no aerial photographs taken of the March or rally for purposes

of estimating the crowd size. Neither he nor Erle Kittleman, media relations coordinator in the National Regional Office of the Park Service, could explain what standardized or statistical methods the Park Service used in estimating crowds, although Kittleman said he was certain such methods existed.

With the exception of the Washington Post and a few others who quoted the Park Service figure alongside the estimate provided by March organizers, most media accepted the Park Police estimate as gospel. Activist Larry Kramer fumed, "Throughout the day the figures were all over the place. At about 4 p.m. CBS radio was estimating 800,000. That was the highest we'd heard. But so many of the publications elected to take the smallest figure. I mean, how dare they?"

But suppose we play with the numbers ourselves. Using National Planning Commission and National Geographic maps, I calculated the square footage of the Ellipse and of the Capital Mall (bordered by 3rd and 12th streets and by Madison and Jefferson).

This area, where a large part of the crowd gathered on Oct. 11, excluded the nearly two miles of the March route, two small parks south of the White House, the lawn of the Pan American Union across from the stepping-off point on the Ellipse; the part of the Mall north of Madison or south of Jefferson; or any part of

3rd Street, north and south of the speakers' stage.

This rather conservative calculation yields an area of roughly 4,400,000 square feet.

The Park Police estimate of 200,000, therefore, provides approximately 22 square feet per person. In other words, where each person stood, no one would have been closer than about 18 inches to the left or right, and no closer than about 23 inches in front or in back. Allowing, instead, a still-comfortable square yard per person (the crowd was, in most places, packed more densely than that), more than 488,000 men and women could easily have occupied the area in question.

Kittleman, in disputing the National March estimate of more than half a million demonstrators, noted, "We only estimated that many on (last) Fourth of July. That was people packed on the Mall from the Capitol to the Washington Monument all the way down to the Lincoln Memorial, all of Constitution Gardens, all of the Washington Monument grounds, all of East and West Potomac Park, and includes the Virginia shoreline of the Potomac River."

It would appear that the Park Service seriously underestimated that crowd as well. The area Kittleman describes comprises nearly eight-tenths of a square mile, or more than 22,302,000 square feet. If no more than half a million people occupied that space each one of them presided over a capacious 44 square feet.

Before the March, however, when organizers were still negotiating for space, the Park Service told a different tale of numbers. Recalls Greenspan, "At the point when we were given between 3rd and 7th (on the Mall) we said, we don't think this will be big enough. And they said, by our estimates, you can put 600,000 people in that area." ●

1,100 Couples Signed For March Wedding

Over 1,100 couples signed up as official participants at The Wedding on Oct. 10 during the Lesbian/Gay March on Washington. The District Police, the National Park Service and Couples, Inc., the organizers, all estimated the number of participating couples exceeded 2,000.

According to Walter L. Wheeler, President of Couples, Inc., "There are several reasons why people are not registered. First, many of them just did not know that there was a registration table and that we were gathering a list of participants. Second, this was the first time that many of the participants attended a public gay event.

"We have also learned that many were concerned about the future use of the information," he added.

The final list of official participants (names only) is to be bound with copies of the Certificates of Participation and

deposited with three lesbian and gay archives.

Couples, Inc. has a very strict policy regarding their Mailing/Telephone List. "The Mailing/Telephone List is for the exclusive use of Couples, Inc. and is totally confidential," said a group spokesperson.

The List of Official Participants is to be finalized on Jan. 10, 1988. Participants who are not already registered, are asked to contact Couples, Inc. at P.O. Box 13323, Los Angeles, CA 90013-0323 or by calling (213) 550-7549. Couples, Inc. recently sent a letter to everyone on the list so those participants that did not receive the letter are not listed. ●

Teacher

(Continued from page 1)

the merits of the case while it was still active. Silver was released on bail on Oct. 21.

He was cleared of earlier charges of sodomizing an unconscious person and distributing pornographic material. He feels the Eureka power structure is against him for fear he'll spread the AIDS virus to minors. Silver does not have AIDS.

A fundraiser to support Silver's defense is being organized. ●

Ordinance To Require AIDS Education For City Employees

Molinari Calls for Preventive Education

by Jay Newquist

Sup. John Molinari introduced legislation before the Board of Supervisors last week (Dec. 21) that mandates AIDS education for all city employees. In his legislation, Molinari slammed the Reagan Administration for its "woefully inadequate" effort for the amount and quality of educational materials available.

Molinari called for a major campaign to make information materials available on prevention and control of AIDS. AIDS education program calls for swift implementation by the City Director of Health. No special funding is envisioned. Costs of the program would come from existing sources.

The measure passed the board on its first reading with two amendments. The Department of Public Health will have overall responsibility for implementing the plan. The city personnel office will assist in coordination and in disseminating the information. Timeline for completing the effort was set at 18 months after final passage and signature into law by the mayor.



Sup. John Molinari
(Photo: J. Dusch)

"AIDS has become an epidemic," Molinari said. "Although great progress has been made in understanding AIDS, it is unlikely that a vaccine or satisfactory drug therapy will be available in the future.

"Our best hope for reducing the spread of AIDS is effective education about the transmission of the disease," he said.

Molinari quoted estimates that a 10-fold increase in AIDS cases is likely over the next five years.

The draft legislation requires the heads of various city depart-

ments to make existing AIDS education materials available to all employees.

The ordinance states that proper information is crucial in order for people to "change their [sexual] behavior" so they are not at risk.

The terms of Molinari's legislation would take effect within 30 days of passage.

The city will then post notices in every municipal building to announce the availability of HIV and AIDS prevention information.

Protesters Arrested At Wilson's LA Office

On Dec. 4, seven members of Out & Outraged, a self-described lesbian and gay "truth squad," staged a peaceful protest at the West Los Angeles office of U.S. Sen. Pete Wilson. The action resulted in their arrest. The group protested the recent vote by Wilson in favor of the Helms Amendment (No. 963), to the Labor, Health and Human Services Appropriations bill (H.R. 3058).



Protesters being taken away in handcuffs from U.S. Sen. Pete Wilson's Los Angeles office
(Photo: J. Hutchinson)

The demonstration climaxed a series of contacts between the group and Wilson's office which failed to bring about any change in the senator's position. The senator's Washington, D.C. office sent Out & Outraged a letter dated Dec. 1, from his legislative director, Dixon Arnett, stating, "I cannot now recommend to Sen.

Wilson that he accede to your wishes or that he... change his position."

AIDS service providers have long maintained that education is the key to stemming the spread of this terrible disease. The Helms Amendment would cut

federal funding to any service provider that educates people about AIDS risk-reduction in a sex positive manner. This amendment would severely cripple the most successful AIDS education now being done and will effectively sentence to death countless numbers of innocent people, said members of Out & Outraged.

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GLOE To Focus On 'Power of Attorney'

The benefits of preparing your Power of Attorney before an emergency situation arises will be the topic of January's Education Forum sponsored by Gay and Lesbian Outreach to Elders (GLOE). Join Maxine Benmour, staff attorney from Legal Assistance to the Elderly in discussing this important topic. The forum will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 12, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. at Operation Concern, 1853 Market St., S.E.

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Greet New Year By 'Living Sober'

Alcohol-Free Party Promises To Be One of the Biggest

by Allen White

An alcohol-free New Year's Eve is becoming a fast growing trend in San Francisco. Living Sober '88 promises to be one of the biggest gay dance parties in the city and there won't be an alcoholic drink to be found. Last year, hundreds of people crammed a social hall at the First Unitarian Church. They danced, they partied and they stayed sober. The event was important to many gay men and lesbians who are a part of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Every day of the year there are AA meetings across the city. The people who participate in these meetings have made a decision to stop drinking. It reflects a decision by many to discontinue any type of drug usage.

Though many believe the AIDS crisis is the reason for the popularity of the program, others believe it reflects a change in how gay men and lesbians perceive their quality of life. There are now so many Living Sober participants that they are easily the largest contingent in the San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade.



Each year they hold their annual Living Sober conference at the Civic Auditorium. This year over 3,000 people attended, primarily from the western part

of the U.S. It is now the largest organized gathering of gay men and lesbians held annually in San Francisco.

Living Sober '88 will start at 9 p.m. New Year's Eve at the First Unitarian Church, Franklin and Gough Street. They have a sliding scale for tickets from \$6 to \$10. Tickets are available at the door.

Living Sober '88 is not the only successful non-alcoholic event this New Year's Eve in San Francisco. First Night returns for a second year with events scheduled all over San Francisco. First Night starts at 1 p.m. Dec. 31 and concludes at 4 a.m. Jan. 1. A "passport" is purchased through BASS (Headlines is a BASS outlet) for \$10 and will allow admittance to all of the scheduled events.

The midnight event is at Fort Mason. Performers include Maria Muldaur, John Sebastian, The Strawberry Alarm Clock and others. This year First Night events will also be held at churches throughout the city.

Last year the First Night entertainment included several openly gay performers. This year there is no effort to reach out to any specific minorities in the city. This change in emphasis clears the way for Living Sober '88 to be the only dance party for gay men and lesbians. That clearly defined focus may make the party the largest non-alcoholic party on the West Coast.

Living Sober '88 party organizers strongly emphasize that a person does not have to be a participant in Alcoholics Anonymous to attend. The only restriction is that liquor will not be served.



Sylvester

Sylvester Hospitalized With Severe Bleeding

Complications Follow Routine Surgery

by Allen White

Popular entertainer Sylvester was rushed to the hospital last Wednesday (Dec. 23) with uncontrollable bleeding. The bleeding followed surgery earlier this month to open a clogged nasal passage. Doctors report that the singer's condition has improved. He is due to be released from the hospital this week.

A spokesperson at Davies Medical Center, where Sylvester was hospitalized, said the operation is routine. "Hundreds are performed here every year," he said. "Bleeding in that area can be hard to control because the area is so hard to reach."

Several people, including doctors, were quick to state that Sylvester does not have AIDS. The rumors had been circulating throughout the city following his hospitalization. Sylvester's lover of five years, Rick Cramner, died last September of the disease.

The decision to have the operation was made earlier this month in Philadelphia. The singer was there to perform at a major AIDS benefit with Elizabeth Taylor. While in the city he was running a constant fever and was unable to breathe through his nose. The condition had existed for almost four years but had become more severe in the last few months.

In fact, doctors at Davies Medical Center were also concerned about that possibility. It was learned that Sylvester had been given a battery of tests and

X-rays to determine if he had AIDS. The results indicated that Sylvester did not have AIDS.

His manager Tim McKenna said, "We have cancelled all of Sylvester's performing engagements. The only thing he is scheduled to do is record an album early next year."

The record is to be his second for Warner Bros. He said he is very excited because it will include new producers and the sound should be different from his previous albums.

His last album, *Mutual Attraction* was issued in 1986 and was his first release on the Warner Bros. label. This year, two of the cuts on the album, "Sooner or Later," and "Mutual Attraction" were remixed. Their release both made the Billboard Magazine dance charts in 1987.

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Happy
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1988

AIDS Activist Group To Take Direct Action

Organizing Pledge Signers to Hold Protests; Plans Non-Violent Civil Disobedience

by Joseph W. Bean

Since it was first presented publicly at the "Agitate, Educate, Organize" meeting during the March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights, the AIDS Action Pledge has been at the center of a flurry of rumors. The founders have been reported to be outcasts from other civil disobedience-promoting groups. It has been said that the Pledge organization is either Marxist or connected secretly with a political party, or that it is covertly a violent and dangerous gay revolutionary network. None of these stories has any basis in fact, although tangential connections can be discovered that may have given various mistaken impressions of the pledge and its founders fertile ground to grow in.

The truth about the AIDS Action Pledge is simpler than any of the stories circulated about it. The pledge itself is a document which was modeled on the Pledge of Resistance, a group that has long been active among those opposed to American intervention in Central America.

Signing the AIDS pledge adds your name to the growing roster of persons who demand a stronger government response and responsibility in the AIDS epidemic. Anyone who signs the pledge automatically becomes a member of the completely non-hierarchical organization of its supporters. Membership grants full voting rights in all decisions concerning actions to be taken in the future.

The group has no chairpersons, no governing body, and no wish to install either. It meets weekly, every Thursday at 7:30 at Metropolitan Community Church in the Castro. And, far from being a branch of any particular political ideology, the group follows the dictates of its voting members in planning and carrying out direct actions and civil disobedience in support of the demands outlined in the text of the pledge.

BIRTH OF THE MOVEMENT

The idea for the AIDS Action Pledge was originated in San Francisco in the Spring of 1987 by Keith Griffith of Citizens for Medical Justice (CMJ). Griffith's plan included basing the pledge on the existing Central America Pledge of Resistance.

By August, while most of the people who had become interested were also planning to participate in the March on Washington, a dozen co-founders of the pledge organization had coalesced. People from CMJ were joined by others from Lesbians and Gays Against Intervention (LAGAI), the Marin AIDS Support Network, the AIDS/ARC Vigil, and other organizations.

This core group—including a number of the people who were more recently arrested at the AIDS/ARC Vigil—presented the pledge to a conclave of approximately 200 AIDS activists on Oct. 12 in Washington, D.C. The discussions in Washington led to some re-working of the document but, more significantly, they resulted in the formation of a national network of pledge-accepting AIDS activist individuals and organizations.

Now, less than a year after its inception, the AIDS Action Pledge is the common thread which links activist groups as

disparate as ACT-UP (New York, Los Angeles, and San Diego), Mass ACT-OUT (Boston), We The People (Philadelphia), C-Force (Chicago), and other direct action and supporting organizations across the country.

Terry Beswick, one of the Action Pledge founders and currently chair of the fundraising committee, says, "What we're interested in doing is not just lobbying, but protests and direct actions. We're into civil disobedience as a movement."

Jose Fernandez, another of the co-founders, adds, "What we saw in AIDS activism was a space where a type of action was possible, but was not being done."

ACTIONS PLANNED

An example of the kind of direct action Pledge signers plan to participate in or support—"as conscience directs"—is an upcoming march on Burroughs-Wellcome, the manufacturer of AZT. "The theme of the march," says Beswick, "is 'AZT should be free.'"

The march, scheduled for Jan. 24 and 25, will start with a rally at Market and Castro Streets in San Francisco. It will then proceed to the Burroughs-Wellcome company's Rollins Road offices and labs in Burlingame. Marchers will collect cash pledges for the 15 miles they will walk and for the hours they will spend involved in the direct action at Burroughs-Wellcome.

Burroughs-Wellcome claims it had spent \$80 million in developing AZT. At \$8,000 a year, with 10,000 people prescribed to use the drug for a single year—the current use figures—the manufacturer would already have recouped the entire \$80 million.

"They dropped the price by 20 percent last week," Beswick says, "just two days before a New York Health Commission hearing on the price and availability of AZT."

In conjunction with the march and direct action at the Burroughs-Wellcome plant, the AIDS Action Pledge is calling for a boycott of three B-W products. "Obviously, we can't boycott AZT," Fernandez says, "but I think drug companies are very sensitive to things like these [boycotts and adverse publicity]." The products for the planned boycott are Actifed, Sudafed, and Neosporin.

Beswick concedes that no one actually expects AZT to be supplied free by its manufacturer in the foreseeable future. "But," he

concludes, "we think another cut of maybe 60 percent is possible."

FUTURE ACTIONS PLANNED

While signers of the AIDS Action Pledge will almost surely be involved as individuals and, perhaps as an organization, in many direct actions and protests before Spring, the thrust of current planning centers on April 29 through May 7. During that time, the network of AIDS activist organizations will be staging a series of actions and seminars meant to draw attention to AIDS and its handling by the government.

The Spring AIDS Action will conclude on May 7 with a National Day of Protest, which coincides with a march on Sacramento planned by the Stonewall Democratic Club of Los Angeles. On



Christmas Eve Vigil Arrests

Police officers cut through the chains connecting protesters to the Federal Building and then hauled them off to jail

(Photo: Rink)

the National Day of Protest, AIDS activist organizations across the country will sponsor locally-appropriate actions both to attract media attention to unresolved problems and to bring popular strength to bear on those problems.

In San Francisco, the May 7 protest will include a rally which Fernandez hopes will be huge. He explains that the rally must be "very, very large because that is the only way it will be noticed." And, he adds, "It will take place

in Civic Center or some place connected with the federal government or federal buildings. It won't be in the Castro because we think the gay community has 'owned AIDS' long enough."

Anyone interested in signing the AIDS Action Pledge, learning more about the local Pledge organization, or finding out about other organizations involved with the "Agitate, Educate, Organize" movement, can write to the A.A.P. at P.O. Box 146693, San Francisco, CA 94114-6693. ●

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EDITORIAL & OPINION

Saps and Political Strength

Early this year, Harry Britt ran for Congress in San Francisco's 5th District—the first openly gay man to make a run for federal office. He almost made it. In October, at least 500,000 people marched for lesbian and gay rights in Washington, D.C. Organizers say the real number was closer to one million. Shortly after that, National March organizers announce a \$70,000 surplus from the event. The following month the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force announces it has eradicated its debt and plans to double its budget next year.

Hardly seems to be the kind of news you'd expect from a shrinking movement whose leadership has been picked off by the killer AIDS. Yet that is what Chronicle reporter Randy Shilts would have us believe. Yes, Randy's not through bashing the gay community yet. Now, apparently he wants to officiate at the burial. Having delighted Chronicle readers over the years with lurid stories of gay sexual indulgence in the very arms of death, now he wishes to console those readers with the comforting news of the demise of gay power.

Well, attention, K-Mart shoppers: the gay movement is not over yet.

Randy is our own Jeremiah. In case the rest of us are just too utterly stupid or selfish to see what's happening to our lives and our friends' and lovers' lives, Randy will take to his rooftop to prophecy how horrible our fate is to be. Jeremiah was a Biblical prophet who exhorted others to reform their ways before judgment day.

It is undeniable that we've paid a steep price with the AIDS epidemic. Losing people like Bill Kraus, for example, hurts the community in many ways. But is it reasonable to claim that because of those losses our whole movement is cast adrift on a still sea? I don't think so.

For one thing, the lesbian and gay drive for political influence is far too young to have gotten tied to personalities. We're in a very fluid time and AIDS hasn't really changed that. The modern gay and lesbian movement is barely 20 years old.

Certainly things have changed in recent years. People who would have been rising to their prime are no longer with us. But others have taken their places. Politics, like nature, abhors a vacuum. New people have formed new organizations to meet new needs, especially in AIDS services. The gay community has long been one to shun the development of concentrated power in so-called leaders.

Organizations that have been around for a time, like the Bay Area Non-Partisan Alliance, are continuing and attracting the attention of political powers that be. It is not extraordinary for presidential candidates now to address Alliance meetings. Where we used to spend political effort to obtain token and largely symbolic platform statements in national party documents, we now see national candidates seek out our votes.

Maybe even because of AIDS we have access to more local, state, and federal representatives and agencies than ever imagined. Lesbian and gay lobbying is no longer a joke. The gay rights agenda is becoming integrated into that of the wider civil rights community.

And our entire endeavor is not just AIDS concerns. Issues of violence, sodomy law reform, parenting and custody rights are being fought for as well. New communities outside the East and West Coasts are more highly organized and visible than they were five years ago. New funding sources for community services have been developed.

I don't mean to be rosy about the challenges that face us. I'm not trying to paint a smiley face on a bad situation. We face some arduous struggles, some of which we will lose while we win others. Political success is not fully measured by stretch limos in Sheldon Andelson's driveway.

It is far from the truth to say the lesbian and gay community's political strength has diminished. The demands on us probably exceed our resources—they always have. But reports of our communal death have been greatly exaggerated.

Ray O'Loughlin

OPINION

Harold Washington and Gay Rights

Like the late San Francisco Supervisor Harvey Milk was for gays, Chicago Mayor Harold Washington was a catalyst for many people. He pioneered coalitions, he sparked movements. And now that he is gone, we must continue the work he helped begin. Just as the gay/lesbian movement did not die with Harvey Milk's assassination, the Washington movement (which includes many lesbians and gay men) will not die, but continue, revitalized in the memory of a man committed to civil rights and equal opportunity for all people.

We were shocked and grieved to learn of Washington's death. There was a collective sigh of disbelief throughout the city—north and south, east and west. Friend and foe recognized Washington's contribution to building alliances, to helping break down racism, sexism, and even homophobia. His job, like ours, is far from complete.

There are few words which can adequately pay tribute to the integrity and deep sense of fairness this man felt toward all people, gays and lesbians included. While some may have questioned his ability to represent our community, now that he is gone, as many activists have noted, our own push for civil rights has been definitely set back at least many months, and possibly many years.

His progress was notable on many fronts and for all citizens. Economically (despite massive federal cutbacks), he brought this city out of the debt-ridden days he inherited from former mayors. Politically, he began to break down the decades-old, entrenched machine patronage which thrived during the Daley years. He brought openness to city government. And while there were many problems in his administration, he was severely hampered for three-quarters of his first term by a machine which refused to die. He could not place many of his choices for top city posts until the final year of his first term, and only then after fiercely competitive special elections. His second term, when he had control and would be able to institute his agenda, has been tragically cut short.

Sadly, the citizens of Chicago will never really know what Harold Washington could have done as mayor. It would be wrong to judge his effectiveness based on such a short time in control. But for gays and lesbians, and for women, Hispanics, blacks and others traditionally cut

out of City Hall, Mayor Washington was able to at least begin to open up city government.

One of the first things Washington did was solidify and add enforcement to an executive order from Mayor Byrne (her only action on gay rights during her four years) banning job discrimination based on sexual orientation in city jobs. Other actions during his five years as Mayor; he appointed Kit Duffy as volunteer liaison to the community; he attended a gay rights rally in 1985 one week after the Gay and Lesbian Pride Parade and attended every Pride Parade after; he issued proclamations recognizing not only Pride Week, but other events in the community, including the Oct. 11 March on Washington, D.C. and Chicago House Holiday Fares; he appointed his Committee on Gay and Lesbian Issues in September, 1985, and during his 1987 reelection bid announced the creation of a full-time paid Coordinator of Gay and Lesbian Issues for Chicago. Later in 1987, Peggy Baker was hired to that position. His Department of Health was finally on the way to dealing adequately with AIDS. And all along, despite opposition within his own community, Washington has spoken in favor of gay and lesbian human rights.

The people elected Washington because of his openness and fairness. It is only appropriate that his successor, who will fill out at least part of his second term, should represent the people who elected Washington, and all citizens of Chicago. We hope there will be mending of City Council factions, and not a return to factionalized government. As far as gays and lesbians are concerned, Mayor Eugene Sawyer, has much to prove. Sawyer voted against the gay rights ordinance in 1986. Evans has a clear record of supporting civil rights and in particular gay rights. From a Machine Democratic background, Sawyer's chief challenge will be to unite the city—and all citizens—behind a system that does not return to a machine patronage.

We must respect the memory of Washington. People around the world have asked Chicagoans for the past five years "How's Harold?" Let us be able to now tell them that "Hizzoner"—in his spirit, ideals and goals—lives on in the heart of the city, and in the Mayor's Office at City Hall.

Reprinted from *Chicago Outlines*

Pig In a Poke

★ I was interested to read in Mary Richards' story of 12/9/87 about the vacation discrimination case. I, too, received a card informing me of my free vacation to either Mexico or Florida. When I phoned the Tennessee office, I was told that I had to give them my credit card number for \$90 at that moment with no refund, no opportunity to think it over and call back, and no opportunity to read their brochures. When I protested that I couldn't be expected to buy a "pig in a poke" the woman on the other end told me not to "lecture her" and hung up. We should all beware of such scams. The BBB sent me a list of them after this episode. I hope the lawsuit closes them down.

H. H. Carvey
San Francisco

Hooperman

The following letter was sent to R. W. Goodwin, Production Staff, Hooperman, Adam Productions/20th Century Fox:

★ Look, if you're going to have a gay character, then have a gay character and stand up for him/her. If you feel you have to stop every few shows and grovel before the prejudices of organized ignorance, then don't bother. Stick with characters you don't have to apologize for.

In your storyline about baby selling, it was false on several counts to have your gay cop moan about how he believes kids should only have families with loving mummies and daddies. First, as you must know, a minority of American families fit that description nowadays. More and more, people have to put together families any way they can.

Second, the choice in many, many cases is not between a Norman Rockwell setting for kids and something lesser, but between some kind of personal care and mere institutional storage. The state of Massachusetts took two foster children away from a gay male couple because bigots who heard about the arrangement took the occasion to scream about the ideal homes children should have; unfortunately, no ideal homes were available and so the kids were thrown into short-term care and lost the continuity and security they'd had before the furor. And you lend support to the know-nothings.

Third, many gay people do have children, many from previous marriages, many from arrangements scorned by your scriptwriters, many filling in the gaps in child care by taking in older or handicapped kids. Are you totally unaware of the documentary shown on PBS last summer, *Not All Parents Are Straight*? Your program was a slap in the face to these worthy people.

Finally, having your gay policeman moan about never being able to have children or, sob, a conventional home, once again perpetuates the myth of homosexuals as emotional and social cripples—the poor things can never have a Normal Life. In fact, gay men may have more friends and social support in this culture than straight men, since the latter are often isolated by macho stereotypes and fear of emotions.

Please—show this guy with his friends. Gays are always alone in network storylines but, as you know, they come in groups—even in pairs. If the best you can do is Let's All Feel Sorry for the Poor Solitary Misfit, get rid of him. We'll still have one good gay role model to watch—a man who is nurturing, not competitive, a man who stands outside macho stereotypes, a man whom women befriend and tell their troubles to, a man with a silly little pet for companionship, a man who has Nelly inflections down pat—Hooperman, himself.

J. M. Matthew
Jersey City, NJ

Offensive

★ I hope you were able to attend the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, so you could tell us why they intentionally continue to insult the Gay Community of San Francisco.

It was so offensive many people left at intermission and some before.

They should have at least had one rehearsal.

Ron Stevens
San Francisco

Where Is Compassion?

Letter to the San Francisco Chronicle:

★ I feel very sorry for the author whose letter dismissed the "AIDS quilt" as self-dramatized hoopla. First of all, the quilt is much, much more than some material sewn together that exploits those

whose names and symbols appear on it. What it has become is a flag, a banner, which simply says that we are not going to die in vain, that we shall be remembered, that our spirits will speak to the living.

What the banner speaks is this—AIDS is not a disease like any other at all. AIDS is a terribly exploited, politicized tragedy—exploited by thinly veiled homophobic conservative and moral-majority type groups, who have long awaited an occurrence such as AIDS, to clean the world of homosexuals, prostitutes, and drug addicts, the supposed cause and intended victims of the disease. AIDS has been politicized to an incredible degree by the Reagan Administration, whose sick apathy and lack of necessary attention to the plight is a disgrace.

The quilt is a call to action and a tribute, it is an eloquent, moving act of love. The purpose of the national tour and celebrity benefits is not to glorify the living or exploit the dead. Grow up! It's because of the attitude of our national government towards allocating the necessary resources to stop AIDS, and to educate the public, that these events are called for.

Where has your compassion gone?

Finally, to the statement that there is nothing grand and artistic about people dying, what a depressing attitude. But isn't that grand and artistic in its own way? Dying is the completion of a cycle, the end of one and the prelude to another. If anyone can look upon the AIDS quilt and know the history of this tragedy called AIDS, and not be moved, he is already dead.

Christopher Milligan
San Francisco

Garbage

★ Like many others, I wrote a letter to Time and Newsweek to express my outrage at the lack of coverage of the National March. After a month, I received a response from Time—the exact same "personalized" form letter that was printed in the Dec. 23 B.A.R. Is this well-written piece of garbage meant to placate infuriated readers? Are they implying that all news that appears in Time happens from Monday to Saturday to comply with their editorial deadlines? Would a story on the March, The AIDS quilt, or the massive civil disobedience have lost its impact in an issue one week later?

I don't plan on buying either news magazine until a cover story focusing on all gay issues—not an AIDS exploitation piece—appears.

Neil Segel
San Francisco

Switch and Fight

★ I wrote to complain about Working Assets' involuntary participation in Visa's U.S. Olympic Committee promotion. Working Assets issues Visa and Mastercard. When you use either card, Working Assets contributes five cents of every purchase to non-profit organizations working for peace, human rights, the environment, and aid to the hungry.

Even before Visa's USOC promotion, Working Assets had made a significant donation to the work of the National Gay/Lesbian Task Force.

I strongly encourage everyone concerned about Visa's ill-considered support of the USOC's homophobia to apply for a Working Assets Mastercard, to clip their Visa's, and to send one-half to their issuing bank with a letter of explanation and the other half to Sasha Alyson's Visa boycott campaign in Boston.

By doing so, we not only register a loud grievance to Visa, but we support a socially responsible company who has proven their support for the lesbian/gay community.

Working Assets can be reached at 230 California St., San Francisco 94111, (415) 788-0777 for further information on their other socially responsible financial and investment programs.

Tim Sally
San Francisco

Mary Richards Responds

★ Thank you, Charlie Samson, for your perceptive comments regarding the Family Link article (B.A.R. letters, Dec. 23). Many of the articles that I write focus on the AIDS crisis, and how our community is coping with it—because of this, your remarks are doubly meaningful. You are right, also, to remind us of the responsibility we have to our readers, who are living with love and hope through this difficult time.

I'm happy to hear that your relatives were able to enjoy the Family Link facilities, and hope that others can share similar, positive experiences with this fine organization.

Mary Richards
San Francisco



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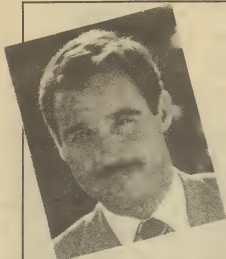
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The Band's 10th

★ In last week's article reviewing significant events of 1987, it was mentioned that the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Marching Band and Twirling Corps celebrated its tenth birthday in last February's Chinese New Year Parade. Since this occasion is so important to us, I'd like to let you know that the correct date will be the 1988 Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade. It was in June 1978 that Jon Sims tacked up flyers on utility poles announcing the formation of a Gay Band for that year's parade.

As the Band celebrates a decade of service as Ambassadors of Joy, it will be joined by the San Francisco Band Foundation's Flag Corps, Vocal Minority, Tap Troupe, Aides-de-Camp, and City Swing units in a year of musical events that will launch us into our teen years.

Mark Nathan
Band Manager
San Francisco

Resources—A New Concept

★ First of all, the staff at Resources would like to apologize to the community for any confusion that has occurred between the San Francisco AIDS Foundation Food Bank and Resources.

Let me begin by stating that Resources provides four services at one location. The services provided include a food pantry, clothing closet, video library, and housing referrals all free of charge to our clients. The apparent confusion stems from the fact that both organizations utilize the term "Food Bank." We at Resources recognize the confusion, and have changed the name of our food service to "Food Pantry." We hope that the change in semantics will readily identify one of Resources services.

We recognize that AIDS/ARC is a major problem for everyone. It is our intent to provide our services the best and most expedient way possible for our clients, as it is difficult for them to travel around town for these services.

We invite all individuals or organizations that would like to become more familiar with our services to come down and visit us. Should there be any questions concerning our operations, any one of our volunteer staff will be more than happy to answer any questions. We are located at 597 Hayes. Our business hours are Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. until 6 p.m., and Saturdays from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Keith L. Ray
San Francisco

Don't Forget Santa Cruz

★ Your Dec. 17 editorial, "Tis The Season," asked your readers to recognize AIDS service organizations with contributions this holiday season. I think that's a great idea, and I hope your readers follow your suggestion.

However, the B.A.R. also circulates in Santa Cruz, and you did not mention the Santa Cruz AIDS Project. The AIDS Project provides community education, counseling, and direct services with 190 volunteers and the equivalent of two full-time paid staff members.

As with other organizations, the need is always greater than the funds available. Any contributions would be welcome, and can be sent care of the Santa Cruz AIDS Project, Post Office Box 5142, Santa Cruz, CA 95063. The AIDS Project is a tax-exempt, private, nonprofit agency.

John Laird, Mayor
Santa Cruz

Enough Is Enough

★ I never thought that I would be writing letters to our gay community's newspaper, but I really think that there are things going on that have to stop!

When I first moved to the gay mecca years ago I was very proud that the gay community had a thriving business community. We were encouraged to buy gay, to shop gay, and to utilize the services of gay professionals. Many of us set ourselves up in our own businesses and geared our businesses to members of the gay community when it would have been much more profitable to either get a job with a straight firm or gear our businesses to the straight community.

I have three colleagues that started when I did and are now literally fighting for their lives. During the years when they had their businesses open, they each had difficulty in recovering fees for their services rendered to members of our community. It seems that once a person was cured from an illness, or gotten off from a drug bust, or had his problems with the IRS settled, the last person he or she would end up paying would be the doctor, the lawyer, or the CPA.

Even faced with these difficulties, my friends persevered, never turning their backs on our community.

My doctor friend was on all the proper boards of directors; he belonged to all the proper gay organizations and fought for all of the gay causes. When the AIDS epidemic struck he attempted to get disability insurance. And what happened, he did develop AIDS, but his insurance wouldn't cover it because he hadn't had the insurance long enough, and do you think that any of those patients with outstanding bills to him would pay them? No! So what is he supposed to do, spend money that he no longer has to try to sue those patients? Remember, someone with AIDS is not supposed to be under stress, and being forced to sue his brothers and sisters was too much for him, so he suffers.

Then there is the CPA who was in business for himself, also being very active in charity events, donating his professional time to these events. Then he developed AIDS and had to quit working. None of his clients who still owed him money came through. Those whom he had helped when they so desperately needed him turned their backs on him. He ended up losing his home and everything he owned. It was just too much for him. He is no longer with us because he took his own life!

After hearing about my CPA friend, I felt compelled to write and urge all of those persons out there who have used the services of a gay business person to be responsible and pay those gay business persons what they owe them, especially if they are disabled with AIDS. AIDS victims have enough problems trying to survive without their own gay brothers and sisters taking advantage of them in their time of need.

George Patterson
South San Francisco

In Defense of St. Mary's

★ This past week (Dec. 24), the B.A.R. covered a story concerning our former employee Mr. James Edwards and a Person With AIDS treated at St. Mary's Hospital and Medical Center nearly a year ago which we believe to contain significant inaccuracies.

The "publicity brochure" referred to in your article was in fact a neighborhood newsletter, certainly an appropriate vehicle for printing a heartfelt letter from a friend of the patient containing nothing but praise for the hospital and its services.

St. Mary's Hospital is committed to providing the highest quality care for PWAs, regardless of patients' sexual orientation, religious affiliation or ability to pay. Currently the hospital provides community education, excellent medical care, support groups, bereavement groups and crisis intervention counseling for PWAs and their loved ones.

The allegations made by Mr. Edwards do not address justifiable quality-of-care issues. These inflammatory statements ignore the significant contributions St. Mary's has made in caring for persons with HIV infection and attempt to create an unnecessary barrier between PWAs seeking high quality care and an institution more than willing to provide that care.

Maire E. McAuliffe, M.D.
Chair, St. Mary's AIDS Task Force
San Francisco

Leadership Needed

This letter was sent to Gov. Dukakis:

★ Dear Gov. Dukakis:

I am writing you to urge you to expedite the passing of the Massachusetts Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights Bill. At a time when many people are reacting in hatred and fear to the AIDS crisis, it is especially important to protect the civil rights of the people most affected by this epidemic.

As a California native, I can speak for many who perceive your commonwealth as a center of culture for our country. Massachusetts represents the foundation of the democratic system, which was developed by a persecuted minority. Your decision to push this bill through the legislative process as soon as possible would set a precedent for many other state governments that are slow to see the importance of protecting civil rights.

At present, lesbians and gays are the most oppressed and persecuted minority in the United States. We suffer from acts of violence and quarantine initiatives that are reminiscent of Nazi Germany. Why do analogies with Hitler continue to be made in our times?

We must constantly remind ourselves of the results of revoking freedom and civil rights to avoid the likes of fascism and Nazism. Your responsibility as a political leader is to keep our nation a free one by reminding us that, no one, no matter how much you disagree with their lifestyle, should be exempt from civil rights that are guaranteed by law to protect the rights of minorities and insure rights for all.

Mike Brooks
San Jose

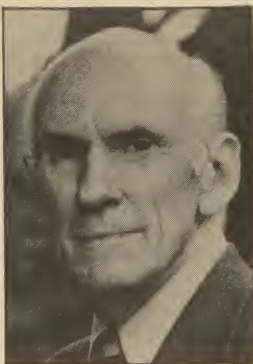
MECLA Raps Cranston

The powerful gay/lesbian political action committee from Los Angeles, MECLA, has joined those outwardly criticizing Sen. Alan Cranston for his vote in support of the Helms amendment that could cut off federal funds to certain AIDS education efforts. After meeting with Cranston's liaison to the community, the group blasted the senator, saying that "MECLA expresses profound surprise and dismay that a long-standing 'friend' who has enjoyed endorsements and contributions from MECLA could support an attack on the gay community by no less than Helms, arguably the nation's most homophobic U.S. Senator."

Attacking Cranston directly, and pointing out that the senior California senator has an important leadership post on the Senate, the MECLA statement continued that "clearly, the Democratic leadership is not taking an active role on AIDS issues, which by default allows a right-wing homophobe to set the agenda on national AIDS education policy."

Now that the long mayoral election is over, if both Agnos' and Molinari's supporters would take down their remaining political signs as quickly as they tore down each other's a few weeks ago, we would be rid of them very soon.

One of the jokes going around City Hall regarding the Progress' Eileen Maloney appointment as Art Agnos' press secretary goes something like this: "Well, she was one of his best press



Sen. Alan Cranston

agents for the past six months, it's only right she get paid for it."

Bruce Petit, a former writer for the Bay Area Reporter replaces Maloney as City Hall reporter for the Progress.

Gay and lesbian activists both in San Francisco and Los Angeles organizing to fight the new LaRouche Initiative.

One of the more interesting rumors I keep hearing has Judge Herb Donaldson thinking of running for supervisor next year.

No one at City Hall surprised that Sups. Wendy Nelder and Doris Ward had the worst attendance at board committee meetings during the past year.

Attorney General John Van de Kamp is to be the keynote speaker at this year's Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Free-

dom (BALIF) dinner on Jan. 14 at the Ramada Renaissance Hotel (\$50 per ticket; cocktails at 6, dinner at 7:30 p.m.). Contact Ron Albers for ticket info.

Sup. Carol Ruth Silver is the new president of the Golden Gate Bridge District.

Doesn't Sen. Quentin Kopp's plan to introduce legislation to abolish the District and let it be run by the state have a familiar ring? It seems whenever political news is dull and a politico wants some ink, they go after the Golden Gate Bridge District.

Christmas cards are really only Christmas cards, but one of my favorites came from Louise and Paul Renne (anyone who puts their dog on the front of their card is all right with me). Playwright Harvey Fierstein (*Torch Song Trilogy*) sent a holiday card with a wish for "a cure for AIDS" and an invitation to join his friends who can't get home for Christmas to join him at his Connecticut country house (thanks anyway, Harvey, but it was too far to travel and besides I always spend Christmas at Hector, Gardner, and Ed's).

The L.A. Times ran a feature story on Dianne Feinstein last week that would make any gubernatorial candidate happy ("she's not 'stepping down,' she's stepping out"). Feinstein, who for my money has been a good mayor, leaves office Jan. 8 when she hands over the government to Art Agnos, being able to boast that San Francisco has an unemployment rate of only 4.7 percent, the highest average household income (\$32,218) of major U.S.



Roberta Achtenberg

cities; a still-vital, downtown shopping district and a still-growing tourist and specialized competition.

USA Today says that among those who are waging a war on AIDS is Dr. Jonas Salk, whose discovery of a vaccine in 1955 wiped out polio. Salk, who says he hopes 1988 is the year he can do the same to AIDS, has a plan to inject healthy AIDS carriers with a brew of killed whole viruses that he hopes will stop the disease from developing and reduce its contagiousness.

State Treasurer-designate Dan Lungren, a congressman from Gov. George Deukmejian's home town of Long Beach, is sure to be confirmed. And if the Sacramento political wags have it right, he will run for a full term in 1990. Then at the age of only 46 (he's 41 now) he will be ready

to act as Deukmejian's replacement as the GOP's gubernatorial nominee.

John Burton has filed papers making him a candidate for Agnos' Assembly, setting up a battle with Roberta Achtenberg, who will undoubtedly emerge as the candidate of the lesbian and gay community. I'm taking no bets, but I will send Achtenberg a campaign contribution.

While other incoming big-city mayors were listing the likes of Martin Luther King, Jr., Margaret Thatcher, and Winnie Mandela as their "heroes," Art Agnos told USA Today that his was Leo McCarthy. (Leo McCarthy?)

And for other mayor watchers, we have it first: Carmel's Clint Eastwood will run for reelection next year (and doesn't that make your day?).

The Niners are headed for the Super Bowl, and I wish all of you a happy and healthy 1988. ●



John Van de Kamp

Dallas Has G.U.T.S.

Texas Truth Squad Hounds LaRouchies

by Will Snyder

American Airlines' advertising slogan has been, "Something Special's In the Air." The theme of that slogan was brought out during the Thanksgiving weekend at Dallas/Ft. Worth International Airport.

That something special was a ringing debate in which a gay rights group confronted supporters of Lyndon LaRouche. By the time the shouting was over, Texans intent on Thanksgiving travel came away with a strong impression that the LaRouchies were exposed as the real turkeys of the weekend.

Ever since LaRouche began urging the quarantine of people with AIDS, one of the techniques of his followers has been to go to public places such as airports and post offices, set up tables and pass out anti-gay literature. But that changed in late November because a Texas gay rights group called G.U.T.S. stood up to the conservatives.

G.U.T.S. stands for Gay Urban Truth/Terrorist Squad. Like the Lavender Hill Mob in New York, G.U.T.S. doesn't seem afraid of a good fight. After observing LaRouche supporters setting up tables at American Airlines' terminal, a dozen G.U.T.S. members produced a permit which allowed them to set up a card table next to the LaRouchies.

As American Airlines customers passed through the gates of the busiest terminal at DFW Airport, G.U.T.S. members spilled their guts about the LaRouche

philosophies of life. Among the signs on display for the LaRouche group known as the Southwest Literature Distribution Co. were the following messages: "Quarantine AIDS Now," and "Mosquitoes Don't Wear Condoms."

"What they do is sell panic," William Waybourn, Dallas Gay Alliance president and G.U.T.S. leader, told the Dallas Times Herald. "We've received complaints all year long about the misinformation they're distributing and that airline travelers are verbally abused and accosted by them."

"Some complain that if you try to walk off, they'll scream 'faggot' at you or make a scene," Waybourn added.

Craig Holzclaw, a LaRouche supporter, said the G.U.T.S. demonstration proves that the LaRouche campaign has been effective. "That's what these guys (G.U.T.S. members) are freaked out about," said Holzclaw.

But after an hour-and-a-half of debate, the LaRouchies were the ones who seemed freaked. They folded their table and fled from the airport.

And all it took were some folks with G.U.T.S. ●

Friedman, Hagans New Co-Chairs of Human Dignity Fund

The Fund For Human Dignity, the educational foundation of the national gay and lesbian community, is proud to announce the election of new officers to its board of directors. At the 1987 Board Retreat, Meryl C. Friedman and W. David Hagans were elected as co-chairs, and Catherine Maiorisi as secretary-treasurer.

Friedman, a former assistant principal, was a founding member of the board of The Fund For Human Dignity and the National Gay Task Force, and a member of the Board of Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund for many years. A co-founder of the Gay Teachers' Association, Friedman recently received an award from New York's Greater Gotham Business Council for community service.

Hagans, a partner in United Arts, Inc., the Los Angeles-based public relations, marketing and development firm, is a consultant to the Illinois Council for the Arts and the MacArthur Foundation. He has 25 years experience in professional management, instruction, fundraising and organizational evaluation in higher education and the performing arts. ●

Different Spokes Plans New Year

Different Spokes Bicycle Club will meet Tuesday, Jan. 5 at 7 p.m. at the Page Street Public Library, 1833 Page St., near Cole St., in San Francisco. The meeting is to nominate officers for 1988 and to plan cycling activities for the new year. ●

BACK ATTACK?



"You're overweight," my lover says. "You live in restaurants," he says. "Why don't you join one of those aerobic classes and use your time in a positive way?" He says. So I did. The first session was an experience! Thirty hot men leaping up and down like frogs in a pond to disco music. I'm struggling to keep pace and then it hit me. Wham! I was having a "BACK ATTACK." They called my lover and four hunks carried me out to the car. We drove directly to Cathedral Hill Chiropractic where I was seen almost immediately. The doctor took x-rays and explained the problem. I'm no longer into aerobics, but I am into chiropractic. As for the weight problem... why does San Francisco have so many great restaurants?

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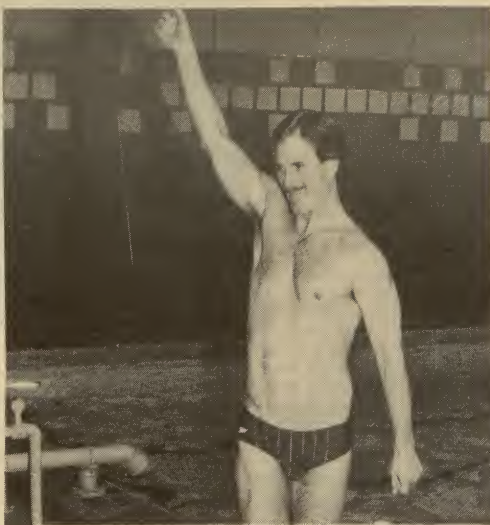
City Bears: Fans or Fanatics

On most days of the year they look and act just like normal people. But on certain days of the fall, members of a group called City Bears dress in nothing but blue and gold, wave "Go Bears" pennants, and travel to Berkeley any way they can, all for the love of a certain college football team. The team, of course, is Cal, the University of California at Berkeley, a school better known for its political activists than its football fans. City Bears is a predominately gay group of sports enthusiasts whose compelling motive seems to be "Any Excuse for a Party."

City Bears is above all the result of one man's love affair with Cal—a man named Hal Herkenhoff, who rates a paragraph or two of his own. Hal, a native of the Bay Area, attended his first Cal game in 1962 when his baby-sitter took the then-13-year-old to the Big Game (Cal vs. Stanford, for the uninitiated). Cal lost 30-13. Despite the defeat, Hal was hooked from the beginning.

"What a show," he recalls. "You wouldn't believe it—the women wearing their mums, the student pranks, the excitement. It was wonderful. After that, I went back whenever I could get tickets—to seven of the next nine Big Games."

In 1967, following an impressive career as the Big Man on Campus at his high school, Hal turned down a full swimming scholarship to Stanford, the national champions at the time, to attend Berkeley on a full



Hal Herkenhoff says . . . Go Bears! (Photo: Rink)

academic scholarship. At Berkeley, he swam and played in the band. Through the band, he was able to carry on his love affair with the football team. Of course, none of this was politically correct, but Hal, ever idiosyncratic, didn't mind.

Three weeks before he graduated in May, 1971, Hal came out. "A blue-eyed swimmer from Hawaii did it," he remembers. "In the morning I was recruiting him for the team. In the afternoon we were in the sack." Two years after that he

moved to L.A. For a few years, therefore, Hal followed other interests besides Cal football games.

In 1977, however, Hal could stay away no longer and bought season tickets to the games with his friend Jim Commander (a.k.a. "Madge"), a UCLA fan. The two commuted from L.A. for the games and decided to move to San Francisco permanently the following year, partly in order to follow the team more closely. Their seats were smack dab in the middle of the "Old Blue" alumni section.

"But we were hardly your typical college grads," acknowledges Hal.

In 1980, two more friends joined them at the games. The next year, eight bought season tickets, doubling the size of the group. All were gay except for one straight woman. None were Cal grads, except Hal.

"I dragged everyone along," he admits. "The draw was that I threw good theme parties, and they didn't care what the theme was. They were suckered into the games by a free cocktail—or two."

Since then, City Bears has grown steadily. By 1984, the group was too large to sit together, so it branched out, creating satellite sections under different names. "That's when we started noticing other gay people and they started noticing us," states Hal. "Also, my involvement with the Gay Games [he was co-director of sports with Sara Lewenstein in 1986] helped, not to mention my T-shirts collection. I became a magnet for all these different gay people."

In 1985, straight people started attending City Bear parties at Hal's home, on the Cal campus, or on the train to Stanford ("The Train to Nowhere") for the Big Game. Now, Hal claims, the football and party atmosphere "transcends the gay thing. Oh, we definitely provide a gay facade. We're obvious, flamboyant, some would even say blatant. But nobody cares, as long as we're rooting for Cal."

In fact, Hal continues, straight Cal fans may have actually learned something from City Bears. "We've taught them to over-do it in the gay way. But we've also broken the stereotypes that they may have had of us—of what gay people are interested in and what we do with our time. The nicknames may be a little much—Tricia Trojan, Lorna Longhorn, Brenda Buckeye—but most straight people see beyond that."

When asked if he is perhaps carrying all this a little far, Hal (whose own nickname is Buffy Bear) replies, "Well, I have been called a sports fanatic. But I think 'fan' is enough. I like to think of myself, above all, as a sports sociologist. I know everything about the teams, followers, colors, etc.—all the social trappings. I'm not so interested in the statistics."

Whether a fan or a fanatic, Hal is well aware that his is an uncommon obsession in the gay community. Despite the community's growing interest in sports, few would willingly decorate their apartments with pom poms, football posters, pictures of the Cal campus, and framed ticket stubs, as Hal has done.

As Hal explains, "Outsiders have a hard time understanding what it's all about because it is a little unique. Apart from a football setting, we look a little ridiculous. But so what? We're having fun. Besides, 75 people dressed in blue and gold can't be all wrong. Tell that to the Stanford fans."

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Latino Gays Give Awards For Arts

Prisma Awards Recognize Community Contributions in Services, Education

by Allen White

The gay Latino community took a giant step forward last Saturday night with the first presentation of the Prisma Awards at the Victoria Theatre. Curas, a community-based organization of concerned lesbian women and gay men working on AIDS issues in the Latino community, presented the awards. And the crowd wasn't disappointed. They got entertainment ranging from Mitzy Lee to Ronnie Salazar. Salazar won the award for Entertainer of the Year.

Among the awards presented was a lifetime achievement award to Ruben Salazar, a pioneer in the Latino gay community. The award was given posthumously. Other awards presented, and not voted by the public included poetry to Francisco Carcon, musical artist Maria Mediana; educator Raul Viveros; visual artist Esther Hernandez; and journalist Rey Ortiz.

The public voted awards to Corazon a Corazon for best show; Pedro Jimenez from Los Portales became Mr. Gay Latino; most outrageous act went to La Bomba Atomica; Cissy was voted Lesbian of the Year; Rodrigo Reyes won for best M.C. and as the individual most active in AIDS work. Curas was acknowledged for the AIDS organization most sensitive to Latinos.

La India Bonita won as the bar most supportive of gay Latinos. Freddy was Mr./Ms. Congeniality. Luis Nunes and Freddy tied

for best bartender and Salvador won for best barback.

The Curas awards served as the focal point for a community celebration. Rodrigo Reyes commented that "this is a way to build a community to unite to fight against AIDS. Hopefully, this will be the beginning of a stronger movement for us."

The evening was distinctly Latino, with most of the awards presented in Spanish with periodic interpretation as they went along. English was clearly not the official language here.

Rodrigo Reyes was clearly the person in charge. He was able to pull together a show that had the audience cheering and wildly applauding many times throughout the night. It was a party from the first note of music.

Curas stands for Community United in Response to AIDS. They meet every Tuesday night at the Capp Street Center, 362 Capp St. at 7 p.m.

Lawyer's Group Avoids Sodomy States

The National Legal Aid and Defender Association (NLADA) adopted a pro-gay resolution at its November meeting in Miami. The resolution, sponsored by National Gay Rights Advocates and Gerry McIntyre of the Southern Tier Legal Services in Bath, New York, requires the NLADA to give preference to those states that have repealed their sodomy laws when selecting a site for its annual meeting.

Jean O'Leary, NCRA executive director, hailed the adoption of the resolution. "These archaic sodomy laws are frequently used by bigots to support their discrimination against gay men and women. It's important for lawyers to raise their level of awareness on this issue and to take action helpful to efforts to repeal sodomy laws."

NCRA is working on a model privacy legislation to reform the sodomy laws around the country.

The NLADA is comprised of over 1100 organizations representing more than 15,000 lawyers. Last year the association adopted three NCRA sponsored resolutions requiring it to support the repeal of all sodomy laws, the enactment of legislation prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation, and protection of the civil rights of people with AIDS and related conditions.

This year McIntyre organized a gay and lesbian issues section for the association. Attorneys interested in joining should contact him directly at Southern Tier Legal Services, 56 Liberty St., Bath, NY 14810.

Dutch Protest U.S. Witchhunt of Gays

AMSTERDAM—The Dutch parliament has demanded an apology from the U.S. government and ordered Dutch police no longer to cooperate with American authorities following the revelation that the U.S. Air Force used Dutch authorities to investigate allegations of homosexuality among U.S. servicemen stationed in Holland. Parliament members also are pressuring their government to send an official diplomatic complaint to Washington.

"About homosexuality, Holland has a clear point of view: it is allowed," said Dutch Secretary for Defense Jan van Houwelingen, adding, "It is my intention to inform our allies of our point of view."

According to The Advocate, U.S. Air Force officials have been hunting down suspected gay servicemen and discharging them from the Air Force. By treaty, any police actions off a U.S. base must be performed by Dutch police. If police can no longer be involved, then investigations of activities will be severely curtailed.

The Air Force claims that it has discharged only four men for homosexuality in 1986. But Dutch media reports indicated that as many as 30 Americans may have been discharged as a result of the investigations that year.

The Advocate reported that Air Force documents show that the military employs a special

group of "homosexual secret agents" who infiltrate gay "social rings." Agents even infiltrated private homes in Holland to spy on suspected gay airmen. Airmen have also been spied upon to see if they used female prostitutes and military police have been known to check the private homes of personnel to see who they may be living with.

Reports of sexual activities have been written up in graphic detail, says The Advocate.

One airman who was discharged was forced to return to the U.S., away from his Dutch lover. But he returned to Holland where he was granted a residence permit. Holland legally recognizes gay relationships.

Even the Dutch armed forces allow and encourage gays to enlist. A special organization has been set up to deal with any problems that gays might encounter in the military. The head of that agency, Dutch Army Maj. Abel van Weerd, first alerted the Dutch parliament to the Americans' using Dutch police.

The American response to Dutch protests of the U.S. witchhunt has been arrogant. Said one U.S. officer, "We've taken heat from our allies before and we can take it again. The Dutch government means nothing to the U.S. military. It is like a peanut that you can flick away with your finger."

—The Advocate

Rights Law Protested Before Enacted

CHICAGO—A group of anti-gay protesters marched to oppose a gay rights ordinance for Chicago before the measure even is written. Gay and lesbian political activists here have been drafting a city ordinance and planning a strategy to get it passed since earlier this year. But news of the possibility alone brought out 1,000 fundamentalist demonstrators to object to the proposal. According to Chicago Outlines, a gay news-weekly, many of the protesters did not even live in Chicago.

The gay rights measure is part of a proposed human rights ordinance covering a variety of civil rights issues. The proposal would change part of the city's municipal code, adding several categories of protected groups, including discrimination based on sexual orientation.

A gay political action committee is being formed to back the passage of the ordinance. Called IMPACT, it will provide financial

support to progressive, pro-gay candidates and work to advance gay and lesbian issues on the local, state and national levels. Over \$10,000 had been raised in two months. The group hopes to raise \$30,000 by next March.

It has not yet been decided when the ordinance will be introduced in Chicago City Council. Local elections are scheduled for March.

—Chicago Outlines

McMoney Is On The Way

San Diego—Mrs. Joan Kroc, widow of Ray Kroc who began the McDonald's hamburger chain, has donated \$25,000 to the AIDS Assistance Fund of San Diego County. The fund provides direct financial assistance to people with AIDS and ARC for emergency housing, food and medical bills.

Terry Cunningham, Director of the AIDS Fund, said he was very pleased by the gift from the Kroc Foundation.

—San Diego Update

Cops Indicted For Extortion

BOSTON—A federal grand jury has brought 19 indictments for extortion from gay establishments against a number of former and current Boston police officers. According to Gay Community News, at least one member of the Boston Fire Department may also be indicted by the time the FBI investigation is completed. The Nov. 10 indictments were part of a total of 58 indictments.

Seven police officers are charged with extorting substantial amounts of cash and property from gay bar managers and owners. Officers allegedly collected a total of \$200,000 in exchange for overlooking code violations and not harassing the bars.

One former manager of a Boston gay bar said that gay establishments were "sitting ducks" for corrupt cops. "Gay establishments are traditionally the easiest victims," said Joseph D'Onofrio, "no one will come to the aid of gay people. Most people would rather believe police officers than gay people."

One bar owner who did not cooperate with police demanding pay-offs found his business constantly raided by the vice squad. During one raid the bar was severely damaged with walls smashed in, wires cut and sound equipment destroyed. Liquor and soft drinks were also confiscated during the raids.

The indicted officers pleaded innocent to the charges and were released on \$100,000 bond. Trial is scheduled to begin Jan. 11. Some of the charges carry penalties of up to 20 years in jail. •

—Gay Community News Boston

Selling Condoms Lands 2 In Jail

ST. PAUL, MN—St. Paul police invoked a law that had been declared unconstitutional in 1980 to arrest two ticket sellers at adult movie theatres. Peter Hafiz and Gennaro Sposito were arrested for violating a Minnesota law which prohibits the sale of condoms by persons not in a health-related field.

Randall Tighe, attorney for the theatre owners, charged that the arrests were in retaliation for the theatres recently obtaining a court order blocking a city ordinance requiring that doors be removed from private viewing booths. Opponents of the theatres claimed that sex occurred in the booths.

Police Chief William McCutcheon said he was shocked by the city attorney's finding that the law was void. But he defended his cops, saying, "I don't expect my officers to know what goes on in every court in this land. I applaud [them] for trying to enforce the law."

—Gay Community News (Boston)



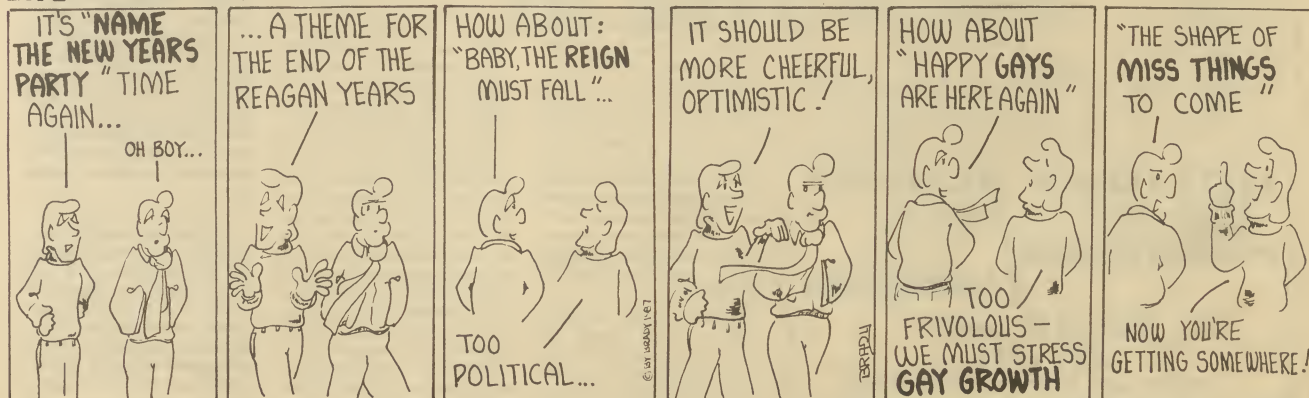
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LIFE AT THE CLOSET DOOR



Troc Cuts Back; Endup Turns 14

Changes Planned for SOMA Nightlife

by Allen White

The era of Trocadero Transfer as San Francisco's premier gay disco dance palace comes to an end this week. The changes reflect the many changes that have come to the South of Market area in the last year. In a statement issued this week, owner Dick Collier said, "Instead of Trocadero remaining a two night a week disco, we intend to function as a multi-use facility. Trocadero will continue to operate on Saturday nights as before, but will close at 4 a.m. instead of dawn." With the announcement it became clear that the dancing till dawn soirees at the Troc are coming to an end.

It was also announced that Trocadero has been contracted out on Friday nights to a private promoter. It is to be called Club X with an 18 and over policy and with no after hours events.

Explaining the reasons for the change, Collier stated, "We have been looking for some time at ways of increasing use of the facility, which in recent months has only been open two nights a week. It is economically impossible to continue operation with such limited use." Collier also said there will be modifications to the building to make it more desirable for outside rentals.

The last major Trocadero Transfer event now planned is Countdown, their New Year's Eve Party. The party will begin at

10 p.m. and continue till dawn. Champagne, hors d'oeuvres and noisemakers will be provided. Live entertainment is by Modern Rocketry and Michael Jorba will be the DJ. Advance tickets are \$15 at Headlines.

The changes at Trocadero Transfer reflect a shifting of activities at many gay South of Market bars. Where once there was the Brig, now stands the Powerhouse. The Ramrod is now My Place.

One of the major changes of 1987 took place with the moving of The Stud. The facility was once the gay Arena. Last June, The Stud made the move from Folsom Street to 9th and Harrison. The larger bar has proved, if it is possible, to be even more

popular. There are now very few nights when there is not a waiting line.

One reason for the bar's success may be what barback Gregory Carroll calls, "a sense of family." That feeling seems to be generated by the youthfulness of the crowd. For many, The Stud was the first gay bar they ventured to in San Francisco.

Earlier this month, the Endup bar celebrated their 14th Anniversary with the unveiling of the 1988 Buns Calendar. The party accentuated the success of this gay bar and dance hall. The evening took a different tone as the crowd spent a good portion of the evening trying to match people to buns.

The full color calendar is a



One of the early Buns contest line-ups (Photo: Rink)

project that had taken most of the year to complete. Each month Mr. Marcus worked with a gaggle of contestants who vied to win the honor of showing off his buns in a calendar.

Photographer Jim Wigler then gathered the monthly winners to put together the final product.

The high spot of the night was the introduction of the models from the calendar. Mr. April, Chip Sumner announced that since winning he has adopted a son who is now four months old. Two of the models are now dancers at the Campus Theatre and Rano, Mr. December, plays

on a gay soccer team. Three of the monthly buns models have left town.

The evening was also highlighted by the musical presentation of Dexter DeVoe. DeVoe has become known to most through his nightly appearances as Prince in the Beach Blanket Babylon shows.

The Buns Calendar is another extension in the interesting 14 year history of the Endup.

For many years the Endup has been the site of the Jock Strap contest which has now become a San Francisco tradition.

For owner Al Hankin the project is "fun." He says "75 percent of the people don't like their work," but Hankin prides himself on being in the minority 25 percent.

Walking through his bar he told about how the back bar area will be closing on Jan. 18. The purpose, he said, will be to remodel the area and create a small restaurant which will be open on weekdays.

The entertainment presentations at the Endup are produced by John Kass. Kass gives these evenings all the attention that Flo Ziegfeld must have given to his follies. The jam-packed bar would attest to the success of this bar which has developed an enviable record of survival.

The S.F. Eagle may be the city's gay community town hall. To assess their success one need only look at the walls of the bar. One wall is covered with a list of people who have purchased holiday lights for AIDS charities. There is possibly never a week that passes without an event raising money for the gay community. That ability to generate money for the community has created a bond with their customers that is unparalleled in San Francisco.

Just a few blocks away is Ray Chalker's Rawhide II. The Rawhide is the city's premier country and western dance palace. Most any night a walk into the bar reveals dozens of couples dancing away to the music of Brenda Lee and the twangs of a steel guitar. The bar even gives free dance lessons for men who have a desire to follow instead of lead.

Like many of the other South of Market bars, the Rawhide's success may lie in its ability to involve itself in the community. Chalker has continually sponsored fundraisers for AIDS-related organizations as well as such groups as the Gay Softball League and the San Francisco Band Foundation.



Dexter DeVoe hosts the buns contests

AIDS Panel Told To Expand Education

On Dec. 11, Jeffrey Levi, executive director of the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) testified before the Presidential Commission on the HIV Epidemic. The hearings focused on the implications of existing data on the incidence and prevalence of HIV in the population at large. Levi challenged the commission to consider data without political bias.

Levi emphasized that regardless of the level of infection in the population at large, the elements of an appropriate social response to AIDS already exist. Levi stressed the importance of expanded prevention and education measures, urged the commission to focus on risky behavior rather than targeting groups, urged the commission to support expanded research into treatments and a cure, and raised a number of unaddressed questions regarding access to health care under our medical system.

He also criticized the federal response to AIDS, noting, "The federal government has been particularly negligent in supporting prevention programs and services for those affected by AIDS."

Levi urged the commission to focus on the human aspect of AIDS, and to not see the health crisis dispassionately. "We must not allow our discussion of numbers to make impersonal what is a very personal crisis for millions of Americans. This disease affects people—not risk groups of others different from you or me, not some abstract dots on a curve—but human beings, members of our families. The urgency of your task given the scope of this epidemic cannot be overemphasized. The gay and lesbian community urges you—and the nation needs you—to act forcefully and courageously to bring about a speedier compassionate response to AIDS by the federal government."

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Dukakis Raps 'Explicit' AIDS Ed.

Calls For Investigation of State Funds; Criticized for Delaying Rights Bill

by Will Snyder

Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis and Massachusetts' gay and lesbian community appear headed for more battles. Dukakis, a leading contender for the 1988 Democratic Party presidential nomination, recently voiced public opposition to a "safer sex" brochure being distributed by a Massachusetts AIDS group.

Dukakis was investigating whether state funds had been used by the Massachusetts AIDS Action Committee to help cover costs for the brochure. The publication not only uses street language in outlining the risks for AIDS, but it also contains two sketches of nude men. Despite the fact that Massachusetts Public Health Commissioner Deborah Prothrow-Stith was satisfied that state funds were not behind the production of the brochure, Dukakis was miffed.

"I'm very troubled that it was published, even if state funds are not involved," Dukakis told the Boston Globe. "I think it is far too explicit and I don't think that kind of material ought to be going out."

Dukakis' rage with the brochure came after a blistering attack on the publication by ultra-conservative politicians in the commonwealth. The attacks came after a gay and lesbian rights bill, which Dukakis lobbied for earlier this year, passed both the Massachusetts House and Senate and moved on to a Senate Committee of Third Reading.

French Wall, editor of a newspaper called The Guide to the Gay Northeast, said he feels the rights bill will die in committee before Dukakis will get a chance to sign it. Wall feels Dukakis should be blamed if the bill is defeated.

"If the governor wanted the bill, as he claimed earlier, it would be law today," said Wall.

NGLTF Releases Candidate Survey

WASHINGTON—The National Gay & Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) issued a model survey of Congressional candidates and urged state and local organizations to undertake surveys in the upcoming election year. The survey covers the areas of gay and lesbian civil rights, bias-motivated violence, immigration, AIDS funding and AIDS testing.

"In the upcoming year, it will be very useful for lesbian and gay activists to gather information on which Congressional candidates support full civil rights for gay and lesbian citizens, so that we can educate our community and target the candidates who need special attention," said Peri Jude Radevic, NGLTF lobbyist, who wrote the model survey.

Radevic noted that NGLTF has begun files on the voting records of members of Congress on issues of concern to the gay and lesbian community. The files also log constituent contact with Congressional members.

The Congressional Candidate Survey is available from NGLTF at 1517 U Street NW, Washington, DC 20009.

"But I suspect that when it dies in the committee, he'll say, 'I would have been for it if I could have signed it.'"

"But what this will mean," added Wall, "is that we'll be left out in the cold again."

Wall said he felt that Dukakis' latest statement may have soured feelings of some gay politicians who said the governor "needs more time" to learn about gay and lesbian issues. "A lot of gay politicians who might be willing to apologize for a lot of actions can't apologize for this," Wall



Gov. Michael Dukakis

(Photo: S. Martin)

said of the anti-brochure statements.

Thus far, Massachusetts has lost an estimated 600 people to the AIDS epidemic. Wall said latest estimates are that another 1,000 Bay State residents have been diagnosed.

Dukakis and the state's lesbian and gay community have been at odds for almost three years. The biggest focus of gay and lesbian anger has been Dukakis' support of a foster parent policy which removes or restricts children from gay and lesbian foster

homes. He also has been under fire for his failure to include any funding for AIDS in his budgets for fiscal years 1985 and 1986.

Wall charged in a news release that when Dukakis was under pressure for his opposition to making gay and lesbian people an official outreach group of the State Democratic Party in 1985, Dukakis' office warned that continued protest would "jeopardize" the state's AIDS budget.

The governor also was criticized in July of this year when he reversed state policy and allowed insurance companies to test for HIV. Massachusetts Insurance Commissioner Peter Iam resigned in protest after Dukakis' order.

But despite all of these controversial decisions, Dukakis remains one of the front-runners in the Democrats' presidential hopes for 1988. He is considered a heavy favorite in both the New Hampshire and Massachusetts primaries. Wall said Dukakis' alleged anti-gay policies haven't affected the governor's campaign.

"There have been a lot of letters to the editor against some of his policies," said Wall, "but people have been reticent about using AIDS in campaign policies."

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TDD 415-864-6606

Major funding for the educational programs of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation is provided by the San Francisco Department of Public Health.

U.S. Study Shows Gays 'Most Frequent' Violence Victims

A recent U.S. Department of Justice study of violence based on sexual orientation, race, religion, and ethnicity has concluded that such crimes are "widespread" and appear to be increasing. According to the report, "the most frequent victims of hate violence today are blacks, Hispanics, Southeast Asians, Jews and gays and lesbians. Homosexuals are probably the most frequent victims."

The study, which was undertaken after sustained lobbying by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) and other professional and civil rights groups, was sponsored by the National Institute of Justice—the research arm of the Justice Department. It was conducted by Abt Associates, an independent research group in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

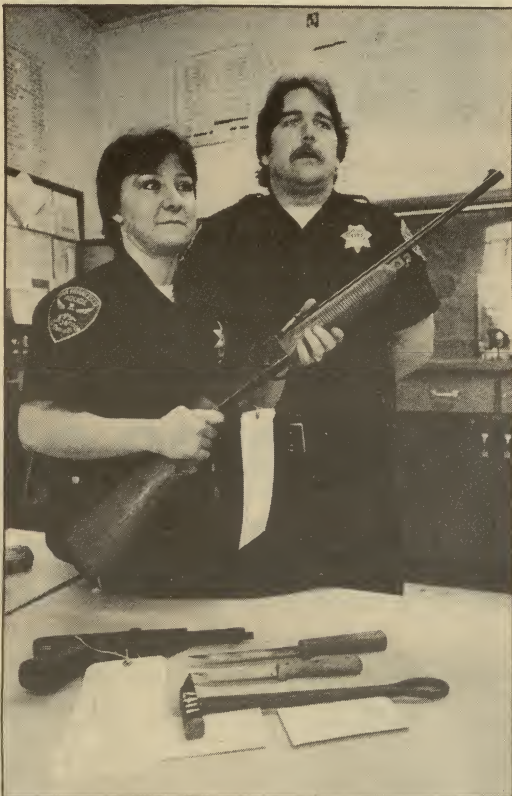
The report's conclusions are based on interviews with forty respondents, including representatives of the criminal justice system, constituency organizations (including NGLTF) and organizations devoted to preventing hate violence.

Commented Kevin Berrill, director of NGLTF's Anti-violence Project, "This study confirms what gay and other minority communities have long understood: that crimes based on prejudice are widespread and increasing, that such crimes are devastating to the victims and their communities, and that the criminal justice system has not been responsive enough to this problem."

According to the NIJ-sponsored report, crimes of bias "are far more serious than comparable crimes that do not involve prejudice because they are intended to intimidate an entire group. Our country is founded upon principles of equality, freedom of association and individual liberty; as such, bias crimes tear at the very fabric of our society." Despite the far-reaching consequences of hate crimes, the report acknowledges that "the criminal justice system—like the rest of society—has not recognized the seriousness of the hate violence problem."

The NIJ report acknowledges some of the particular problems facing anti-gay violence victims, such as the fact that gay victims often fear public exposure and, along with Southeast Asians, are especially reluctant to report crime.

While noting that "homosexuals are probably the most frequent victims," the NIJ report states that "almost none" of the statutes [that address crimes of bias] include gay and lesbian vic-



Some of the tools of violence

tims of bias." Accordingly, it calls for strategies to "encourage legislatures to include gays and lesbians in their statutes." The report goes further to recommend training for police and prosecutors in identifying, investigating, and prosecuting crimes based on prejudice, and in working with victims and their communities.

According to NGLTF's Berrill, the NIJ study—along with the recent passage of the hate crime statistics bill in the House Judiciary Committee—suggest that anti-gay violence is beginning to be recognized as a significant problem—one no less deserving of study and remedy than other

types of crime motivated by bigotry.

"In the face of this report and our own community's research in anti-gay violence, officials can no longer credibly deny or minimize this problem," Berrill said.

Added Berrill, "We applaud NIJ for undertaking this groundbreaking study. Our only hope is that this process will not stop here. Having confirmed the seriousness of hate violence, much more needs to be done to encourage law enforcement to tackle the problem. We plan to join other concerned communities in urging NIJ to move forward on this important issue." ●

NGLTF Judges Voting Records Of Congress

WASHINGTON—The National Gay & Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) recently released documents detailing the voting records of all members of Congress on key bills of interest to the gay/lesbian community which are pending before or were voted on during the 1987 legislative session.

The legislative summaries will be updated on a regular basis and may be ordered from NGLTF at 1517 U Street NW, Washington, DC 20009. ●



Violence has touched many people in recent years (Photo: Rink)

Dannemeyer: 'I Did Not Foam At The Mouth'

A Demand For Correction

On November 6, 1987, I for the first time determined that your newspaper printed a story about me on Thursday, October 8, 1987. In said story, a portion of which is enclosed, reference is made to the language which is underlined.

Said underlined language libels me as that term is used in Section 45 of the California Civil Code. My approach to achieving a public health response to the AIDS epidemic is the correct approach to be pursuing. I never attended a meeting on the subject with anyone two weeks prior to September 17, 1987, the date of the memo, because I was with my family on a vacation in San Diego from August 22, 1987, to September 8, 1987. Because I was not at any meeting, I was not terrifying, I did not practically foam at the mouth, and I have on many occasions exhibited public sympathy for the victims of AIDS.

My public utterances on AIDS have been rational, reasoned and delivered with normal emotional import. On no occasions have any utterances of mine scared anyone. I have been diligent in pursuit of this issue but not in a zealous manner.

The alleged memo referenced in your story, a copy of which is enclosed, was not prepared by a consulting firm for the Republican Party, but as a fictitious document prepared by person or persons who are at this time unknown.

Demand is made for you to correct this libelous statement at once.

William E. Dannemeyer

Our Response

In our Oct. 8 edition, we did not print a story about Rep. William Dannemeyer. We did publish a news story concerning a plan under discussion in certain Republican circles that called for using AIDS as a campaign tactic against Democrats. The plan called for accusing Democrats of being soft on AIDS and not meeting public concern for the health crisis.

Our story came from a secret memo leaked to us by a source we consider reliable. The memo, written by Dannemeyer's fellow Republicans, contains references to Dannemeyer's behavior on AIDS. His fellow Republicans, not the Bay Area Reporter, described Dannemeyer as "terrifying, practically foaming at the mouth anytime anyone made an even slightly sympathetic reference to people with AIDS." They said he "would scare a lot of people." They recommended Dannemeyer's style be avoided, saying "we must avoid being labelled as extremists."

B.A.R. published the memo next to the main story. There is no reference in our story to Dannemeyer.

Rep. Dannemeyer states he did not attend a meeting on Sept. 3. We never claimed he did. There is no mention of dates in our story either in regard to the memo or to the meeting in Sacramento on which it was based.

We do know that Dannemeyer did attend such a meeting in Sacramento to discuss political campaign tactics regarding AIDS. And we know Sen. John Doolittle was also there. Rep. Dannemeyer supplied that information to the House of Representatives on Nov. 9. From the Congressional Record of that date: "A meeting took place in Sacramento on Sept. 8, 1987, just about two months ago. I was present at that meeting. There were eight other people present at that meeting." Dannemeyer said that the meeting was limited to discussing language on a state ballot initiative regarding AIDS.

But Dannemeyer later admitted to the House that a memo written by consultant Charles Rund was under discussion that day. "Mr. Rund did say that his office prepared a memorandum which was circulated to certain officials in the Republican Party in California that talked about targeting certain Members (of the House) in the 1988 election," said Dannemeyer according to the Congressional Record. He denied that AIDS was the subject of that memo.

But Dannemeyer went on to candidly say that same day on the floor of the House of Representatives, "To my Democratic friends in the House, there is a certain measure of truth in what the memo said with respect to a Republican plan to attack a select group of congressional incumbents in 1988 as being soft on AIDS."

The rationality of Rep. Dannemeyer's remarks on AIDS has been well demonstrated by his frequent appearances in public forums and in the mainstream media, both print and broadcast. Some quotes from the Congressional Record of Nov. 9 will serve as reminders as to what this man stands for. Dannemeyer said that "those in this chamber who want to continue to treat this [AIDS] as a civil rights issue" are Democrats while "those who want to treat it as a public health issue" are Republicans.

"If we continue the current course which this nation is following, nonreportability, not testing the people of this nation for the virus for AIDS, that by 1995 we can expect five million sick and dying, 14 million carriers and a yearly cost of \$50 billion," said Dannemeyer. He claimed that testing would cut those figures at least in half.

He then told the House of Representatives that HIV carriers "deliberately engaging in conduct that results in transferring the virus to other humans" have "forfeited the right to move about as a free citizen."

For Dannemeyer, any concern for people with AIDS is only a cover for advancing gay liberation which he believes ought to be stopped. According to the Congressional Record, Dannemeyer said there had been "tremendous strides made in terms of the leadership of the homosexual movement in America to change the basic culture of our society."

To the Democratic Party, Dannemeyer had this to say that day: "You are assisting them in achieving their objective of changing the culture of our society so that we will accent and equate homosexuality on a par with the heterosexual lifestyle. That is their objective."

Dannemeyer went on to say, in what may have been the longest discussion of AIDS and gay rights the House has ever held, that "the political clout of the male homosexual community . . . has intimidated our public health officials."

He further contended that if AIDS attacked "persons with gray eyes" instead of gays, authorities "would have quarantined the lot of those people two years ago."

Such is Rep. William Dannemeyer's compassionate, reasoned plan for dealing with this disease. ●

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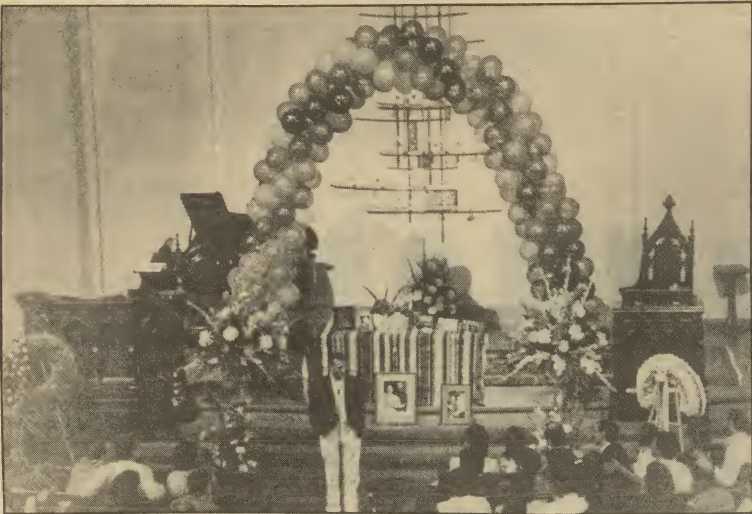
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PROVEN TIME AND TIME AGAIN!



Bobby Reynolds' memorial service was held May 8 at First Unitarian Church
(Photo: Photo Graphics/Darlene)

Review

(Continued from page 1)

found some money to save the program from closing, especially S.F.'s 18th. Street Services.

★ ★ ★

The first steps were taken to turn the old Public Health Services hospital in the Richmond District into a federally supported regional AIDS treatment center. The only hitch is to get the Defense Department to move its language school to other quarters.

★ ★ ★

Community United Against Violence (CUAV) launched a pro-

gram to help gay men who are the victims of domestic violence at the hands of battering lovers.

★ ★ ★

Ginny Apuzzo was urged to run for President of the United States to demonstrate gay and lesbian voting clout but she didn't rush to the hustings.

★ ★ ★

Rumors of Pope John Paul II visiting the Castro area's Coming Home hospice set off a flurry of protest and the process begins to organize demonstrations during the papal visit to the city set for September.

★ ★ ★

Tom Brougham won a seat on

the East Bay's Peralta Community College District board by a whopping 59-41 percent.

★ ★ ★

The California 4th. District Court of Appeals upheld the state's privacy law forbidding forced HIV testing after San Franciscan Brian Barlow bites a San Diego cop in a scuffle during San Diego's gay pride parade.

★ ★ ★

The Federal Communications Commission asked the U.S. Department of Justice to investigate the possibility of criminal charges being slapped on Los Angeles radio station KPFK for broadcasting portions of Robert Chesley's play *Jerker* dealing



Michael Kelly out canvassing votes for Harry Britt
(Photo: B.A.R.)

with sex in the age of AIDS.

★ ★ ★

Bobby Reynolds, one of the first people with AIDS to come out publicly, died April 27 after a five year struggle with the illness.

★ ★ ★

City officials threatened the owners of the last gay bathhouse in San Francisco with jail and fines for violations of a 1984 court order prohibiting unsafe sex that private investigators say they saw go on at the 21st. Street Baths. Rather than fight on, the owners close up shop and sell the building.

★ ★ ★

Easter Day draws thousands to the Lily Street fair to display their bonnets and other things.

MAY: PEDALLING AND PROTEST

An army of whistleblowers

stopped bashers on the 24-Divisadero bus, trapping the bus at Market and Castro Streets until the police arrived. Three were arrested.

★ ★ ★

Police arrested six in a sit-in protesting the U.S. Department of Labor's decision to require HIV testing of all Job Corps applicants and participants.

★ ★ ★

A new report from the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force documents more violence against gay men and lesbians in the U.S. The report listed 80 homicides in 5,000 incidents of harassment and violence, double the number for 1986. AIDS hysteria and church preaching against homosexuality were blamed for some of that increase.

★ ★ ★

The Third Annual AIDS Bike-
(Continued on next page)

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People like these helped raise more than \$300,000 for the Bike-A-Thon
(Photo: PhotoGraphics/Darlene)

Review

(Continued from previous page)

aThon sent over 1000 cyclists pedalling 25 to 100 miles each to raise \$340,000 for 11 AIDS service organizations throughout the Bay Area.

★ ★ ★

Liam Kelleher, a straight man who was severely beaten because he was mistakenly thought to be gay by some thugs on a Muni bus, settles his \$2.5 million lawsuit against the city for \$15,000.

★ ★ ★

Two men were found stabbed to death in their apartments in separate incidents.

★ ★ ★

A man who robbed people with AIDS by posing as a support volunteer was caught by police when he returned to the home of his victims demanding more money. Police charged Antonio Hartley, 22, with first degree robbery.

★ ★ ★

A judge dismissed the lawsuit of a man who had sued the killer of his lover for loss of companionship. The judge ruled that a ten-year relationship did not constitute the type of "socially acceptable" relationship covered by the law. The right to sue in such cases is taken for granted by married couples.

★ ★ ★

A group of Marin County activists demanded the resignation of the county's health director Dr. Theodore Hiatt, after Hiatt issued a report on AIDS that called for a "just say no" approach to risky sex and said that the health crisis could be solved by people learning the "true nature of love." Activists charged that the county has ignored the AIDS crisis.

★ ★ ★

A new study was released showing that same sex couples are more intimate with one another and allow more flexibility in their relationships. The study by psychologist Michael Bettinger looked at 50 gay male couples together from one to 47 years.

★ ★ ★

Stanford gay and lesbian students called on their university to adopt a detailed plan to overcome "institutionalized homophobia and sexism" on campus. Among their demands are extending non-discrimination policies to ban homophobia by employers using Stanford's placement center and inclusion of same-sex couples in eligibility for married-student housing.

★ ★ ★

San Francisco hiked the city AIDS budget to \$17 million for fiscal 1987, an increase of \$4.3 million over 1986. Patient services and education were to be expanded as was treatment for IV drug users. A total of 22 city supported programs were to be augmented.

★ ★ ★

The San Francisco Chronicle found out there are gay and lesbian couples and agreed to mention lovers as lovers in its obituaries.

★ ★ ★

State Attorney General John Van de Kamp announced that his office is investigating consumer fraud in regard to bogus treatments offered for AIDS.

★ ★ ★

A Memorial Day Candlelight March for those who have died of AIDS drew 5,000 to walk from



The Great Tricycle Race is a highlight of any year

(Photo: Photo Graphics/Darlene)

Castro Street to City Hall. Thousands more held similar remembrances around the world at the same time.

★ ★ ★

The S.F. Eagle team won the 16th. Annual Memorial Day Tricycle race from Folsom Street to The Mint on Market Street to raise funds for the Shanti Project.

JUNE: MONTH OF PRIDE

The San Francisco Roman Catholic Archdiocese was hit with a \$5 million lawsuit for libel, slander, invasion of privacy and emotional distress after annulling a marriage. In the annulment, church officials said John Buxton, who is gay, suffered from a "personality disorder" that rendered him "morally incapable of fulfilling the essential obligations of marital life." But he did make babies!

★ ★ ★

In Washington, D.C., 64 people were arrested June 1 when hundreds protested in front of the White House because of the Reagan Administration's poor response to AIDS. The day before,

Pres. Reagan had approved the idea of mandatory HIV testing, calling for the testing of federal prison inmates.

★ ★ ★

Plans were proposed for a

mural honoring Harvey Milk to be painted by artist Johanna Poethig on the outside wall of the Milk Recreation Center in Duboce Park. After some protest by neighbors, however, a compromise plan is reached moving the

mural away from their windows.

★ ★ ★

The California Conference of Local Health Officers revised its plan for dealing with "recalcitrant AIDS patients" and dropped its proposal for quarantine in a "strict isolation facility."

★ ★ ★

Rep. Barney Frank (D-MA) made it official: he's gay. That brought to two the total number of openly gay members of Congress, both from Massachusetts. The other is Rep. Gerry Studds who represents the district adjoining Frank's.

★ ★ ★

Citizens for Medical Justice zapped Burroughs-Wellcome, maker of the drug AZT, accusing the firm of profiteering on its AIDS treatment. Seven were arrested at the company's Burlington regional office.

★ ★ ★

San Jose Mayor Tom McEnery proclaimed June 20 to be Lesbian and Gay Human Rights Day in that South Bay city.

★ ★ ★

(Continued on next page)



The Cala Lillies won the day at the '87 Lily Street Fair

(Photo: Photo Graphics/Darlene)

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DEATHS

Kent T. Mitchell

Kent died at San Francisco General Hospital on Dec. 21.

Born in Oakland in 1943, Kent called San Francisco home for over 25 years. He was active in the deaf community and was a founding member of the Rainbow Deaf Society.



Kent, a gentle, loving man, will be missed by his family and many good friends.

A memorial service will be held on Sunday, Jan. 17 at 2 p.m. in the multipurpose room at the Hearing Society, 20 10th Street, S.F. (between Market & Mission).

Contributions in Kent's name may be made to the American Foundation for AIDS Research, 9601 Wilshire Blvd., Beverly Hills, CA 90210.

John D. Petuya

John died at home in Hayward, Dec. 18. He was the beloved son of the late Pierre Petuya and of Gynith Petuya of Menlo Park; dear brother of Frank Petuya of Terra Linda, Pierre Petuya of San Jose, Yvonne Cady of Menlo Park and Edna Ruggiero of Las Vegas, NV. He is also survived by his loving friend Don N. Shepard of Hayward. He was preceded in death by his dear sister Gynith Hudson; a native of San Francisco; a veteran of the U.S. Coast Guard; a past president of the Loan Servicing Committee, Northern

California Mortgage Bankers Association and a member of the Press Club.

A Memorial Mass will be celebrated at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 2 at St. Dominic's Church, Bush and Steiner, S.F. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Emergency Fund, AIDS Project of the East Bay, 400 40th Street, Oakland, CA 94609.

Asel J. Sanchez

4/20/64-12/6/87

Asel died peacefully of pneumocystis pneumonia in the arms of his lover on Dec. 6, at Davies Medical Center, after only being diagnosed on Nov. 25.

He will always be remembered as a proud, quiet, independent man, and a hard worker. He was also a very sensitive, loving, caring person. He had a quick wit and loved to have fun. He was a fighter and was determined that he was going to beat AIDS. He fought as hard as he could to live.



Asel came to San Francisco in January 1985 from Española, New Mexico. He attended the University of New Mexico, majoring in electrical engineering. He worked here in management at Wendy's on Market Street, and then joined Foodmaker's, Inc. in management.

He leaves behind his loving family, parents Theresa and Johnny; brothers Eric and Zack; grandmother Rosa; his

devoted lover and friend, Jim Hemphill; his close friend, Ken Pugh; and many other friends and relatives.

Funeral services and interment were held in Española, New Mexico on Dec. 10. Memorial services were held here at St. Francis Lutheran Church on December 11.

God bless you until we meet again. I miss you and will always love you, baby, Jim.

Enrique Perez

Enrique was taken from his many friends and family on Dec. 5. Burial services were held in Bakersfield, CA on Dec. 8.



He was born on Nov. 14, 1952 in Corpus Christi, TX, later moved to Bakersfield and finally to San Francisco. He is survived by his mother and three brothers. We will all miss him very much. Donations can be sent in his memory to: The Open Hand, 1668 Bush St., San Francisco, CA 94109.

Bernard Guenther

Dec. 1949-Dec. 1987

Bernard celebrated his 38th birthday on the winter solstice in his beautiful home on Ord St. He was surrounded by his closest friends.

On Dec. 23, he quietly died in his sleep. Bernard was born in Medford, Oregon and has lived together with his best friend and companion Dimitri Metros for 13 years in San Francisco. He is also survived by his brother Bruce of Chicago, IL.

A celebration of his life will be held soon at his home.



Cary Dane Farrar

October 6, 1945—
December 13, 1987



Rex Leithead

(Rexann)

One of our great legends, Rexann, passed away on Dec. 23. While taking care of his 84-year-old father, Rex Leithead, closed his eyes and left us. Rexann was a contender for Empress in 1971 and also designed the original logo for Totie's Bar. We will all miss his great wit.



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Review

(Continued from previous page)

Two weeks before the Lesbian and Gay Freedom Day Parade in San Francisco, the State of California slapped an \$11,000 tax lien on the parade committee for non-payment of sales taxes from 1982 to 1985 and for failure to pay payroll taxes from 1978 to 1985. Parade organizers said they had their books better organized this year and that they were working to pay back the state for past years.

★ ★ ★

The federal Food and Drug Administration ordered the sexual lubricant Lubraseptic off the shelves because it advertized claims that it stopped the AIDS virus. The FDA said more tests were needed before that claim was justified.

★ ★ ★

As the Michael Raines discrimination case went to trial for the third time, attorneys for the city, defendants in the case, filed a brief claiming that the city has the right to discriminate against whomever it wishes in top level positions. City Attorney Louise Renne hastily explained that, no,

it doesn't really mean that. The brief really meant that some appointments are discretionary for the mayor and not bound strictly by bias laws. She promised that the city was not going to challenge the validity of the city's own gay rights ordinance as had been done in earlier trials of the Raines case.

★ ★ ★

Teleevangelist Jim Bakker denied he was gay but still could not explain why his wife Tammy Faye wears all that mascara that runs all over her face every time she cries, which happens a lot.

★ ★ ★

The Stop AIDS Project, that had set up dozens of informal support groups to help gay men deal with AIDS and accept safe sex, declares its work done. They plan to take their successful model to other cities.

★ ★ ★

On June 12, the U.S. Army agreed to give up its Richmond district language facility so it can become a 350-bed AIDS hospital.

★ ★ ★

San Francisco Public Schools said they will enforce a ban on anti-gay slurs. Gay sensitive staff are also to be placed in every city high school. Unfortunately,

school's out so none of the kids hear of this.

★ ★ ★

Scientists rebuked federal officials on forced AIDS testing as dozens boo and hiss Vice-President George Bush at the Third International Conference on AIDS. Researchers said that they were glad the epidemic is finally getting some significant attention by the government at least.

★ ★ ★

Maud's, the mother of S.F. lesbian bars, turned 21 years old with a packed house of well-wishers, June 13.

★ ★ ★

The City of San Francisco paid \$53,000 to settle Bruce Lindberg's complaint that police had dragged him off a city bus, taken him to an isolated area, beat him and left him. Why? Because Lindberg, who likes men in uniform, gave two of the city's finest a "thumbs up" sign.

★ ★ ★

An estimated 200,000 people, of all shapes, sizes, colors, orientations, genders and ages, celebrated gay and lesbian pride on June 28 by marching up Market Street in the 18th. Annual Lesbian and Gay Freedom Day Parade.



Everybody loves a parade

(Photo: Photo Graphics/Darlene)

BAY AREA REPORTER GREATER BAY NEWS

New Page

Zelotypian Haecceity

LIFELINE DIRECTORY
(An "Inquiring" Nose)

A couple of weeks ago one local television station preempted network programming to air a special AIDS program in conjunction with the Names Project quilt. Viewers were invited to call in to receive a special directory which listed a wide variety of organizations and agencies who use volunteers in their services to people with AIDS/ARC and their loved ones.

An hour and a half later I was able to get through the special line and make my request for the directory. I certainly didn't mind the re-dialing and busy signals. It indicated that there were many, many others who were also interested in receiving the information. The pamphlet was delivered in a matter of days—a fete of no uncertain terms considering the heaviness of the holiday mail.

I was bemused and somewhat surprised that there were only two organizations listed from Alameda County (and one from Contra Costa County).

It wasn't too long ago that the East Bay Assistance Fund hosted an AIDS/ARC Alliance and Networking meeting at its regular October gathering. Attending this assemblage were no less than 24 organizations and individuals, all concerned with persons with AIDS/ARC and their loved ones.

Without a consultation I took it upon myself to write to the television station to inform them of Alameda County omissions from their directory. I took the liberty of sending them the complete list of attendees from the Alliance and Networking meeting. Such organizations as EBAF, BASH, In Memory Foundation, Metropolitan Community Church Chaplaincy Team, and Community Hospice of the East Bay should not go unpublicized.

COUNTERPANE COLLABORATION
(A "Knit One, Purl Two" Nose)

Recent conversations have revealed that there are projects afoot to make a quilt from Alameda County to add to the Names Project. Suzie (Lake Lounge) and Mama Chuckles (Paradise) are two who are spearheading the venture.

The person with whom I spoke mentioned A (as in one) quilt. That just doesn't set too well with my way of thinking. One quilt from all of Alameda County?

I know these are extremely busy times, but how about a quilt from each bar? How about a quilt from ISE? BASH? EBAF? In Memory Foundation? Individuals who have lost friends/loved ones?

Not to take anything away from either Suzie or Mama Chuckles (They both have their hands full right now), but wouldn't this be a perfect opportunity for Imperial Star Empire to prove its mettle by organizing one weekend, at one convenient location, for all interested to participate? This

could eliminate any duplications or unforeseen omissions.

Imagine! All of Alameda County working together for one common goal—additional entries for a traveling quilt. It boggles the mind. How about it, Carlos and Toots?

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS
(A "Plaudits & Kudos" Nose)

A recent weekend was extremely busy for Big Mama's and Paradise—not necessarily customer wise, but volunteer wise.

On Saturday, Dec. 19, all the clothes and toys gleaned by Eddie Paulson were wrapped and delivered to needy families, along with baskets of food. Friday, Dec. 18, volunteers crowded the Paradise to stuff a hundred-plus stockings. The following Saturday, all were distributed to AIDS wards and shut-ins.

Word has it that there is a move afoot to install a new chairperson for the I.S.E. Board. Could it happen before the next legal holiday?

All reports indicate that Imperial Prince and Princess David and Morgan's "Holiday For I.S.E." at the Spoiled Brat was a huge success. The "Silent Night Candle Vigil" brought tears to many orbs! Over \$200 was raised from an auction of only four items! All this with no "official" approval from the board about the flyers. I.S.E. will gladly accept the proffering, however.

Not-too-difficult-puzzle Department: Which local bartender (hint: Empress I) refused to work the holidays without a Christmas tree in the bar, so took it upon himself to purchase said tree and trimmings in order for all the customers to enjoy? Bonus question: Why didn't the owner do the customary thing of providing the tree? I know the answer to the first part. Your guess is as good as mine for an answer to the second part! Yours is probably better, because mine would only get me in deeper alienation!

Several people took time on a busy Christmas morning to visit the AIDS ward at Fairmont Hospital. Love and hugs to those I definitely know about: Jim, Leroy, and Terry.

From "Debbie Dirt" (aka Marlow, Cabel's Reef): "Through the combined efforts of time and donations by the patrons of Cabel's Reef, my first annual Christmas Barrel Fund Drive for the AIDS Food Bank (Out-Patient Care) and Fairmont Hospital (Patient Services) was a grand success.

"Oakland's black gay community proved they cared—'It's living with AIDS, not dying from AIDS that makes the difference.' A total of 16 boxes of much-needed food items and 10 boxes of clothing were gathered after an enjoyable two-week campaign.

"Special thanks to all who made this drive successful: Custom Care Cleaners, Leo Thompson, Mr. Moreno, and most of all to Mr. Jack Everhart and his staff for their help to make the drive exclusively effective. Happy New Year, Marlow!"

An aside to the Royal Princess:

Your comment about the Court deserting the "Winter Palace" except for the Emperor and Empress—just perhaps they weren't invited to that party!

PERENNIAL VILLANELLE
(A Doggerel Nose?)

Haecceity! abounds in the East Bay Mysterious.

All things being equal is a point so moot;

Providing for the mundane to the delicious,

Proves all types of egos we try to suit.

Yill-caups' held high to toast every fete,

Now common at Paradise and Lounge by the Lake;

Eschew' all worries and cares of the week,

When at Big Mama's your thirst you do slake.

Yens for camaraderie, fellowship, and esprit,

Emerge at Turf Club, Driftwood, or the Hub;

(Continued on next page)

Calvary M.C.C. Hires Student Clergy

by Marv. Shaw

Currently in an interim period after their latest pastor, Jim Seegar, left in November to return to his native Seattle, the Calvary Metropolitan Community Church in Redwood City is planning to try two student ministers.

A man and a woman, both with M.A.s, will be substitute clergy while the congregation's search continues, board of directors members Paul Sheldon, Jake Shoemaker, and Richard Wolf said recently.

Housed in the Unitarian Fellowship of Redwood City, 2124 Brewster St., Calvary is approaching its ninth anniversary and will have a commemorative service at 5 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 3, when Rev. Bruce Hill, their first pastor, will be here from Atlanta to officiate.

The directors stated that their congregation has been able to proceed with its usual operations

because they are a fully independent, chartered church with officers in place to coordinate worship services and promote other functions, such as the bake sale recently held at The Cruiser in Redwood City and the Tuesday evening rap sessions.

Explaining that each congregation in the M.C.C. is free to establish its own identity, the directors asserted that Calvary is especially proud of being a very inclusive, ecumenical, non-denominational church with members from a wide geographical area and diverse backgrounds. Inquiries are invited at (415) 368-0188.

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Roberti Wants Some Fellows

SACRAMENTO—Senate President Pro Tempore David Roberti (D-Hollywood/Burbank) announced on Dec. 7 that applications for the 1988-89 California State Senate Fellow Program are now available. The deadline for submitting applications is Feb. 20, 1988.

Senate Fellows are assigned to Senators' personal staffs or committees for a 10-month period. They assist Senators with a broad range of policy issues, including legislative research, bill analysis, constituent casework, and speech and press release drafting. They also participate in seminars with Senators, senior staff members, journalists, lobbyists, and state government officials.

"There is no better way to learn about the legislative process than becoming a Senate Fellow. Whether your career goals are in the public or private sector, the fellowship program provides valuable training," said Roberti.

Anyone who has a college degree from a four-year institution

may apply. There is no preferred major and there is no need to be a recent graduate.

Fellows are paid a stipend of \$1,500 a month plus health and dental benefits. They also receive 12 graduate credits from California State University, Sacramento for their seminar work.

The program begins in November, 1988. Twelve fellowships are awarded by the Senate Rules Committee in May 1988. Awards are made after an initial screening of applications and subsequent panel interviews.

Applications are available from the office of any State Senator or from the Senate Rules Committee, Room 500, State Capitol, Sacramento, 95814, or telephone (916) 445-0924. ●

Marin Records High AIDS Ratio

Marin County now has the second highest number of cumulative, per capita AIDS cases in the state. For the first time, as of Oct. 31, Marin County has surpassed Los Angeles, ranking second only to San Francisco. With 106 cases and 64 deaths between Jan. 1981 and Oct. 1987, Marin County's numbers appear low. However, in comparison with population of Marin County, the per capita comparison is quite high. Over 70 percent of the people with AIDS recorded are between the ages of 20 and 49 and over 75 percent are gay or bisexual.

The Marin AIDS Support Network (MASN) is the only agency in Marin County with its sole purpose being AIDS-related work. Providing a 24-hour hotline and emotional and practical support, as well as health education, MASN is newly headed by Eileen Hansen.

A resident of San Francisco, Hansen is one of the founders of the AIDS Action Pledge and a national organizer for the civil disobedience at the Supreme Court during the National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights.

"To get an accurate picture of the situation in Marin County, one must double the recorded figures," said Hansen. "Marin County has a serious problem and Marin County residents must begin to face up to that fact. We need more funding, more individual contributions, more staff and more volunteers if we are ever to reverse this trend." ●



East Bay Dems To Meet Jan. 20

The East Bay Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club will hold its next meeting on Jan. 20 at 7:30 p.m. at the West Branch of the Berkeley Public Library which is located on University Avenue at the corner of San Pablo Avenue. Among the items to be discussed will be LaRouche II. At its annual holiday party the club raised around \$2,000 for the East Bay AIDS Response Organization as well as canned food for the East Bay AIDS Project. For further information, call Don at 527-0801. Also on the Agenda will be nominations for new club officers. All are welcome. The meeting is wheelchair accessible. ●

Be A Lobbyist For A Day

As part of its continuing effort to demonstrate constituent pressure for responsible AIDS policies, the Lobby for Individual Freedom and Equality is planning a lobbying day in Sacramento on Monday, Jan. 11, 1988. Every person who reads this notice is strongly urged to participate. A similar event sponsored by LIFE last August produced over 70 volunteer lobbyists; the goal is to double that number on Jan. 11.

This day of lobbying is becoming increasingly critical. Consider the following:

- Sen. John Doolittle plans to introduce a new package of AIDS bills in 1988.

- Assemblyman Pat Johnson (D-Stockton), chair of the Assembly Finance and Insurance Committee, told the L.A. Times that he will introduce a bill to repeal the restriction on testing for insurance eligibility.

- The California Medical Association is floating a proposal to remove the requirement for written consent to test and written authorization for disclosure of test results.

- L.A. district attorney Ira Reiner is sponsoring a bill to be authored by Assemblyman Gary Condit (D-Ceres) that would require reporting of positive test results.

- The deadline for two-year bills to clear the policy commit-

tee in their house of origin is Jan. 15. Many irresponsible measures that were introduced in 1987 may resurface during the first two weeks of the new session.

On the positive side, LIFE will have its package of bills ready for introduction. Assuring legislators that responsible and effective measures will be available for their support is critical to our success in 1988.

Your participation in this lobbying day is vital to our efforts to mold and control the AIDS agenda in 1988. Visibility, concrete proposals and compelling arguments need to combine to shift the focus of legislators toward responsible state policy.

Make plans now to participate on Jan. 11. Call the LIFE office at (916) 444-0424 to indicate whether you will be in attendance. You may also note those legislators that you would like to visit; the office will schedule appointments for you. ●

Weekly Support Group To Start At Fort Help

People with AIDS or an ARC diagnosis have an opportunity to join a newly forming weekly support group. Fort Help Counseling Center is a nonprofit professionally staffed center for psychotherapy and counseling which has served the community for the past 17 years. The group will meet on Monday mornings. A \$5 donation is requested per session, but is not mandatory.

The group's focus will be on support, growth and self-healing. Facilitators are Mike Cooke and Shelly Wald.

Cooke is currently a group facilitator at the Center for Attitudinal Healing in Tiburon and has worked as a therapist at Fort Help and the Transpersonal Counseling Center in Oakland. Shelly has been with Shanti as a volunteer and emotional support training facilitator, and has worked as a therapist at Fort Help for the past few years.

For more information and to arrange an intake interview, call Mike or Shelly at 546-7779. ●



Latino Volunteers Needed

The San Mateo County AIDS Project is recruiting volunteers to provide HIV prevention education to those members of our Latino community who are at greatest risk for AIDS infection. Prevention education is the key to stopping the AIDS epidemic. Reaching those who are at greatest risk requires a massive community effort. With your help we can teach people how to protect themselves from being infected with AIDS through education.

If you want to be part of the most important disease prevention efforts of our time and contribute to the well being of the Latino community in San Mateo County, we need you!

If you are Latino and have familiarity with the Latino communities in San Mateo County, we need you!

Spanish speakers are especially needed, but not a must. If you know of people in your own community who might be involved with activities which could infect them with the AIDS virus, think about volunteering a couple of hours a month to help teach these people how to be safe from AIDS.

If you're interested call Jonathan, Ruth, or Denise at the San Mateo County AIDS Project, 573-2588, to get more details. Help protect our Latino community from AIDS! ●

A/PLG Plans Officer Installation In January

Asian/Pacific Lesbians and Gays, Inc. will hold the 8th annual Installation of Officers Dinner and Dance on Saturday, Jan. 23, 1988, at the Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza, 5985 W. Century Blvd. in West Hollywood. Cocktails will be served at 7 p.m. and will be followed by dinner. There will be a presentation of special A/PLG Presidential Recognition Awards. Sally Jeu, long active in the Asian community and currently on the staff of A/PLG, will be the featured speaker. Hoang Phan, re-elected A/PLG President, will speak on the expanding role of A/PLG in both the Asian and gay communities. Ed Goka, Dean Goishi, Bert Estrada, Philip Eng, Ron Thamawatanakul, and An Tieu also will be installed on the 1988 board. Dancing will conclude the evening.

Tickets for this event are available for a \$20 donation and may be obtained by sending your check or money order, with a stamped self-addressed envelop to Installation Committee, 11558 Riverside Dr., Suite 106, No. Hollywood, CA 91602. For additional information call Milt at (818) 508-9961 or (213) 392-3177, ext. 2877. ●

Nez

(Continued from previous page)

Amenability abounds at D.J.'s and Bella Napoli,

Revive yourself at Bench & Bar or Brat with a Pub.

Frequent White Horse and the Eagle of Bill,

Relax at Town & Country for relief;

Ollie's and Circus are full of good will,

Mingle with the gang at Cabel's Reef.

New beginnings as the old year fades,

EBAF and BASH must continue to be strong;

Zelotypia* must grip the fight against AIDS,

Promoting In Memory will never be wrong.

An ending so I won't fall on my prat*...

Suffice it to say, "I can smile at that!"

1. Haecceity — individuality
2. Yill-caup — ale cup or mug
3. Eschew — avoid, shun
4. Zelotypia — intense, extreme zeal
5. Prat — derriere, keister, ass

When you're right, hardly anyone remembers; when you're wrong, no one forgets! I can still smile. ●

Love, Nez

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CGBA

*Happy
 New Year*
1988

FRIDAY 1

- **Black and White Men Together:** black-eyed pea party, 2-6 PM, \$7. Call 931-BWMT or 863-0925 for more information.
- **Marga Gomez:** comedy, Artemis Cafe, 1199 Valencia St., S.F., 8 PM, \$4.
- **New Year's Survivors Pajama Party:** Code Blue I (Club Metropolis), 1484 Market St., S.F., 9 PM-2 AM, \$2.99 members, \$4 guests. Call 979-5557 for more information.
- **Sing-A-Long:** with Frank Banks on the piano, Belden 22, 22 Belden Place, S.F., 6-8 PM.
- **Dick Fregulia:** music, Piano Zinc, 708 14th St., S.F., 8:30 PM.
- **Parlez-vous Français?:** Si oui, venez a nos reunions amicales le premier Vendredi soir de chaque mois a 8h. La bienvenue a tout niveau! La fete du 1 Janvier sera chez Paul. Pour de plus amples renseignements, appelez-le au 431-64-14 ou 282-49-56.
- **San Francisco FrontRunners:** Hangover/Lincoln Blvd. run. Meet at the Presidio Gate entrance where Pacific and Presidio cross at 10 AM. Approximately four miles. Call 647-3227 or 337-8704 for more information.
- **Can There Be Sex After AIDS?:** PWA discussion and support group, 2:30-4:30 PM. Call 863-8908 or 552-6764 for more information.
- **Growing American Youth Group:** for gays and lesbians 21 or younger, Diablo Valley Metropolitan Community Church, 2253 Concord Blvd., Concord. Call 372-9014 or 827-2960 for more information.
- **Yoga Class for PWAs and PWARC:** taught by PWA, 4:5-30 in the Mission, \$5 if you can afford. Call 863-7212 for more information.
- **"I Had AIDS Workshop":** noon and 7 PM; videos at 9 PM. Call Richard Locke at 558-9650 for more information.
- **Vision play:** circle of healing and renewal using visualization and deep trance work, Quan Yin Acupuncture Center, 513 Valencia St., S.F., 8 PM, \$5-\$15 sliding scale. Led by Van Ault, certified hypnotherapist. Call 864-1362 for more information.
- **People With AIDS Support Group:** meeting. Call the Shanti Project at 558-9644 for more information.

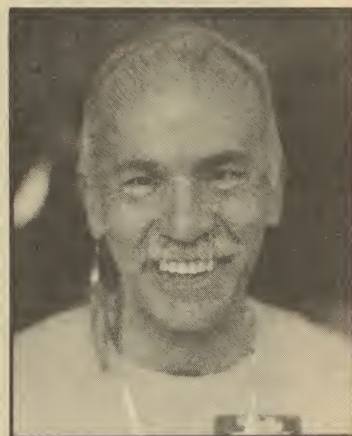
SATURDAY 2

- **Frank Pietronigro:** provocative fine art, Walt Whitman Bookshop, 2319 Market St., S.F., reception for the artist 1-4 PM. Call 285-0205 for more information.
- **Lisa Cohen:** music, Artemis Cafe, 1199 Valencia St., S.F., 8 PM, \$5. Accompanied by Tracy Stark.
- **Gus Gustavson:** music, Piano Zinc, 708 14th St., S.F., 8:30 PM.
- **EastBay FrontRunners:** Alameda Shoreline run. Take 23rd Ave. exit off Hwy 17 to Kennedy St. Continue on Kennedy and turn right onto Park St. Cross Park St. Bridge into Alameda and continue to end. Meet at the intersection of Park St. and Shoreline Dr. Flat 3-5 mile loop. Call 939-3579 or 261-3246 for more information.
- **San Francisco FrontRunners:** Meet at Stow Lake Boathouse in Golden Gate Park, S.F., at 9 AM. No-host brunch follows; beginners welcome. Call 647-3227 or 337-8704 for more information.
- **Different Spokes/San Francisco:** decide and ride. Meet at 1 PM at McLaren Lodge in Golden Gate Park, S.F. to decide on a ride.
- **Fraternal Order of Gays:** game fest, FOG House, 304 Gold Mine Dr., S.F., 8 PM, refreshments. Call 641-0999 for more information.
- **Gay Gourmet Potluck:** 7 PM in San Francisco. Call 775-6143 for more information.
- **HIV+ Social Club:** meeting. Call 863-2301 or 285-4942 for more information.

SUNDAY 3

- **Sunday Afternoon Sketch Group:** drawing class for gay men, nude model provided, \$6. Call 421-0316 for more information.
- **Lesbians and Gays for Simon of Northern California:** outreach meeting, Dolores Plaza recreation room, 1839 15th St., S.F., 2-4 PM, free; refreshments. Call 552-3542 for more information.
- **Faith Winthrop and Gus Gustavson:** music, Piano Zinc, 708 14th St., S.F., 8:30 PM.
- **Skiers and Gay Athletes:** monthly membership meeting, St. John's Church hall, 5th Ave. and Irving, S.F., 7 PM. Call 928-1736 for more information.
- **San Francisco FrontRunners:** Sunset Blvd. run. Meet at Irving and Sunset at 10 AM for an easy, flat run along the Blvd.; about 4 miles. Call 647-3227 or 337-8704 for more information.
- **Gay Volleyball:** playground at Petro Jr. High, 19th and DeHaro, 11 AM.
- **Different Spokes/San Francisco:** decide and ride. Meet at McLaren Lodge in Golden Gate Park, S.F., at 10 AM to decide on a ride.

THIS



George Birimisa will begin teaching a new writing class Jan. 6

- **Tsunami Masters Swim Team:** practice, King Pool, Third and Carroll sts., S.F., 10 AM to noon. Call 285-5659 for more information.
- **Bay Area Gay Fathers:** support group, Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers St., S.F., potluck and social hour 5-7 PM, group meetings 7-8:30 PM. Call 841-0306 or 285-6191 for more information.
- **G40+:** meeting, First Unitarian Church, 1187 Franklin St., S.F., 2 PM. Martin Stow of SIR will speak.
- **Palo Alto Lesbian Rap Group:** meeting, Old Firehouse Stanford University campus, 7:30 PM. This week's topic is "Relationships: What Makes Them Work?" Call 969-1260 for more information.
- **Integrity:** Eucharist for the community, St. John's in the Mission, 1661 15th St., S.F., 5:30 PM.
- **Affirmation:** Gay and Lesbian Mormons: discussion, San Francisco MCC, 150 Eureka St., S.F., 7 PM. Call 641-4554 for more information.
- **San Francisco MCC:** morning worship and holy communion, 150 Eureka St., S.F., 10:30 AM.
- **Diablo Valley MCC:** worship and communion service, 2253 Concord Blvd., Concord, 10 AM. Call 827-2960 for more information.
- **Radiant Light Ministries:** Sunday celebration of love and life, Swedish American Hall, 2174 Market St., S.F., 10 AM. Call 861-1667 for more information.
- **New Life MCC:** worship and communion service, 1823 9th St., Berkeley, 5 PM. Call 843-9355 for more information.
- **Calvary MCC:** worship service, 2124 Brewster Ave., Redwood City, 6 PM. Call 368-0188 for more information.
- **MCC of the Redwoods:** worship and communion service, Olive and Throckmorton Sts., Mill Valley, 10:45 AM. Call 388-2315 for more information.
- **Latter-Day Saints:** sacrament meeting for lesbians and gays and their friends, Sacramento Lambda Community Center, 1931 L St., Sacramento, 1 PM. Conducted by the Sacramento Family of the Restoration Church of Jesus Christ. Call (916) 447-5755 for more information.
- **Golden Gate MCC:** Sunday worship services, 48 Belcher St. (between 14th St. and Duboce), S.F., 12:30 PM, 7 PM. Call 474-4848 for details.
- **Holy Trinity Church:** meets at the Billy DeFrank Community Center, 1040 Park Ave., San Jose, 10 AM to noon.

MONDAY 4

- **The Buddy Connection:** safe-sex workshop for gay and bisexual men, San Francisco MCC, 150 Eureka St., S.F., 7-10 PM. Call 863-AIDS for more information.
- **Gay and Lesbian Outreach to Elders:** support group for older gay men, Operation Concern, 1853 Market St., S.F., 7-8:30 PM. Call 626-7000 for more information.
- **AIDS Project of the East Bay:** parents and family support group, 6-8 PM. Call 420-8181 for more information.
- **AIDS Project of the East Bay:** grief support group. Call 420-8181 for more information.
- **Spirituality for Recovering Women:** support group, 3017 Geary Blvd., S.F., 7-8:30 PM, sliding scale. Call 239-4965 for more information.
- **Stress Reduction Workshop:** support group. Call 558-8454 for more information.
- **Emotional Support Group:** for people who have lost their lovers due to AIDS/ARC, 7:30 PM. Call Sean Martindale at 626-4329 for more information.
- **Support Groups for PWA and those concerned about AIDS:** ongoing meeting, Kaiser Foundation Hospital, 2425 Geary Blvd., 3:30-4:45 PM. The meetings will be held in Conference Room B on the fifth floor. Call 929-4186 for details.

5 WEEK

TUESDAY 5

- **Black and White Men Together:** AIDS awareness meeting, 3135 Courtland, Oakland, 7:30 PM. Call 261-7922 for more information.
- **Healing Group:** facilitated by Jason Serinus and Fred McKissic, Center For Self-Love, Growth, and Healing, 552 Castro St., Suite B, S.F., 7-9 PM, donations appreciated. Call 652-2180 or 344-8505 for more information.
- **Master Your Mind:** support group for people with AIDS and the worried well led by Mary Richards, 4th Floor, 333 Valencia St., S.F., noon to 2 PM. Focus on meditation, visualization, empowerment, and health; not affiliated with the S.F. AIDS Foundation. Call 945-0941 for more information.
- **Homopol:** gay and lesbian Waterpolo team workout, Oakland High School pool, 1055 McArthur Blvd., Oakland, 7:15-9 PM. All levels of swimmers encouraged. Call 824-4848 for more information.
- **Gay Support Group For People With ARC:** and alcohol/substance abuse, Operation Concern, 1853 Market St., S.F., 7-9 PM. Individual and group process. Call 626-7000 for in-take appointment.
- **Bonnie Gearheart:** music, Piano Zinc, 708 14th St., S.F., 8:30 PM.
- **AIDS/ARC Support Group:** meeting for those recently diagnosed and being treated at UCSF, 11th Floor Lounge, Moffitt Hospital, Parnassus Ave., S.F., 8-9 PM. Call 929-7865 for more information.
- **Diablo Valley MCC:** choir practice, 2253 Concord Blvd., Concord, 7 PM. Call 827-2960 for more information.
- **Evening Group Orientation:** for people with AIDS or ARC, San Francisco AIDS Foundation, 333 Valencia St., 4th floor, S.F., free. Assistance in interpreting financial benefit systems, assistance for government assistance programs, and information on social service agencies and discounts available. Call 864-4376 to reserve a space.
- **Community United Against Violence:** support group for battered gay men, 514 Castro St., S.F., 7:30-9:30 PM, free. Call 864-3112 for more information.
- **AIDS Project of the East Bay:** PWA/ARC support group, 6-8 PM. Call 420-8181 for more information.
- **AIDS Project of the East Bay:** family, friends, and lovers support group, 6-8 PM. Call 420-8181 for more information.
- **Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays:** meeting, Diablo Valley Metropolitan Community Church, 2253 Concord Blvd., Concord, 8 PM. Call 372-9014 or 827-2960 for more information.
- **People of Color:** support group, 513 Valencia St., 6-8 PM, free. Educational support group for minorities experiencing anxiety about their health, sex, and AIDS. Sponsored by the AIDS Health Project. Facilitated by Julius Johnson, PhD. Childcare available with 24-hour notice. Call 681-7887 for more information.
- **Temescal Gay Men's Chorus:** rehearsal, Trinity Hall, 2320 Dana, Berkeley, 7:30 PM. Call 843-1439 for more information.
- **AIDS Interfaith Network:** support group, Parsonage, 555-A Castro St., S.F., 7 PM, free. Call 864-7462 for more information.
- **Healing Institute:** meeting/workshop, MCC San Francisco, room 21, 150 Eureka St., S.F., 7:30-10 PM. Call 861-0702 for more information.
- **ISA Men's Group:** SF Men's Tuesday Night Incest Survivors Anonymous 12-step program, SF Home Health Services, 225 30th St., room 206, S.F., 7:30-9 PM. Closed meeting for survivors and pro-survivors. Non-smoking, wheelchair accessible, free parking. Call 474-2872 for more information.
- **Meditation and Healing Circle:** meeting, Haight-Ashbury Community Center, Park Branch Library, 1833 Page St., S.F., 7:30 PM. Call 864-5483 for details.
- **Gay International Folk Dancing:** for lesbians and gay men, Eureka Valley Recreation Center, Collingwood Park, S.F., teaching 7:30-8 PM, request dancing 8-9:30 PM, \$2.50. Call 585-9784 or 285-5634 for details.
- **Drop-in Bereavement Support Group:** for friends and lovers of people who have died of AIDS/ARC, 100 Diamond St., S.F., 7-9 PM. Call 864-7400 for more information.
- **People With AIDS Support Group:** meeting (see Friday for details).
- **San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Marching Band and Twirling Corps:** rehearsal, Jon Sims Center, 1519 Mission St., S.F., 7:30 PM. All band instrumentalists are needed. Call 621-5619 for more information. Every Tuesday.

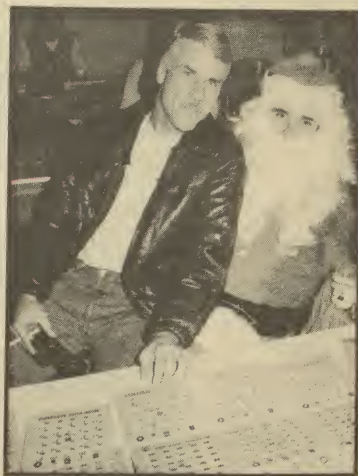
WEDNESDAY 6

- **Electric City:** television on PCTV cable network in Oakland, Berkeley, Alameda, and Emeryville, 9 PM. First anniversary show.
- **Judy Hall:** open mike cabaret, Teddy Bears, 131 Gough St., S.F., 9 PM, no cover. Call 621-6766 for reservations.

- **Dick Fregulla:** music, Piano Zinc, 708 14th St., S.F., 8:30 PM.
- **Open Mike Cabaret:** with Katibelle Collins and Lauren Mayer, Belden 22, 22 Belden Place, S.F., 6-8 PM.
- **Time For Old Writers:** writing workshop for older gay men and lesbians (50+), Operation Concern, 1853 Market St., S.F., 6 PM. Taught by George Birimisa. Call 431-6254 for more information.
- **Castro Lions Club:** meeting, Cafe DuNord, 2170 Market St., S.F., 6:30 PM (\$10 dinner optional). GGBA Foundation co-chairs Bob Munk and Cheri Bryant will speak on "How To Give Money Away."
- **Course in Miracles:** support group, 7-9 PM in San Francisco. Call 647-5029 or 861-1833 for more information.
- **Gay Support Group:** for people with alcohol/substance abuse issues, Operation Concern, 1853 Market St., S.F., 7-9 PM. Call 626-7000 for in-take appointment.
- **Ballroom Dance:** beginning instruction for lesbians and gay men, 3435 Army St., Studio 204, S.F., 8:30-10 PM, \$4. Call 431-4883 for more information.
- **Wednesday Matinee:** sponsored by Operation Concern's Gay and Lesbian Outreach to Elders and North of Market Senior Services, 333 Turk St., S.F., 2:15-4 PM. Movies, games, and refreshments. Call 626-7000 for more information.
- **Meditation and Spiritual Healing:** for people with AIDS, 2333 Turk Blvd., S.F., 9:30-11:30 AM. Presented by the Silent Way. Call 386-6753 for more information.
- **Morning Group Orientation:** for people with AIDS and ARC (see Tuesday listing for details).
- **Men's Group:** relationship issues and improving self esteem in a long-term therapy group for gay men. Call Adrian Bruce Tiller at 861-2385 for more information.
- **Beginning Yoga Classes:** 6:30-8 PM. Located near 16th and Valencia. Free for PWA. Call 864-1141 for details.
- **Western Star Dancers:** square dance for experienced mainstream level dancers, Central YMCA, 220 Golden Gate Ave., 2nd floor theater. Both males and females welcome. Every Wednesday. Call 621-5631 or 621-3990 for details.

THURSDAY 7

- **Tressa Armstrong-Lewis:** music, Teddy Bears, 131 Gough St., S.F., 9 PM, no cover. Call 621-6766 for reservations. Jazz, Blues, and standards with Eddie Da Costa at the piano.
- **Gus Gustavson and Faith Winthrop:** music, Piano Zinc, 708 14th St., S.F., 8:30 PM.
- **Black and White Men Together:** rap, 1350 Waller St., S.F., 7:30 PM. This week's topic is "Myths and Fantasies of Racism." Call 931-BWMT for more information.
- **AIDS Christian Support Group:** meeting, Miller Avenue Church, 285 Miller Ave., Mill Valley, 8 PM. Call 388-5993 for more information.
- **Bingo:** To benefit Coming Home Hospice, S.F. AIDS Foundation Food Bank, and the AIDS Emergency Fund, Most Holy Redeemer Church, 100 Diamond St., S.F., doors open 6 PM, games begin 7 PM, \$10 minimum buy-in. An alcohol-free space. Snacks and non-alcoholic beverages sold. Smoking and non-smoking areas. Pull Tabs, door prizes, raffle.



You may still find Santa hanging out at Bingo this Thursday (Photo: Rink)

The Bay Area Reporter welcomes organizations, businesses, and individuals to submit items for its weekly calendar. Placement in the calendar is free and the sole responsibility of the editors. Deadline: 5 PM on Thursdays.

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Renee Hicks
Barry Brady
Jan. 13
Sandy Van
Marilyn Pittman
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BAY AREA REPORTER

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Arts '87

We Experimented And Had Few Disappointments

by Joseph W. Bean

The year of 1987 got off to a very slow start, but once it had found its own strength, it was a year of experimentation and adventure on the gay arts scene. If great successes were few, great disappointments were also rare as producers and performers shifted this way and that trying to work out the entertainment formulas for this odd time, beyond AIDS hysteria and yet still very much in the Age of AIDS.

Benefits for AIDS organizations were more common than AIDS related topics for plays and other entertainment, but the epidemic is only one of the factors pushing gay artists toward previously untried avenues of expression. Perhaps of equal or even greater importance is the fact that post-Stonewall performers and artists are maturing. We are now in the first-ever era of mature gay artists who—unlike

gay psyche. Given no Garland, we can adopt Cook, and there are others waiting in the wings for the inevitable day when Barbara steps down.

Speaking of Garland, and other older styles of being gay in the arts (both as performer and consumer), we had Jim Bailey as Judy Garland in Concert this spring, too. He was as good as ever, maybe better, but it just didn't work. Really, two hours of the same queen doing the same impersonation is just about 90 minutes too much.

City Cabaret was still something new at the beginning of the year, and a good deal of the entertainment there was gay. Mikio Hirata, for instance, was an early City Cab headliner. But, along with the more established and much gayer Baybrick Inn, City Cab folded in 1987. Gay cabaret has had only an off-and-on life in San Francisco for many years. Losing two venues might have



Maxie's HideAway was the locale in *Pulp and Circumstance*

(Photo: J. Posener)



'87 saw the passing of the Baybrick Inn

(Photo: Photo Graphics/Darlene)

Tennessee Williams and Noel Coward—have lived their productive years out of the closet, producing work for audiences that could also be "out."

BASICALLY CABARET

Nonetheless, the year began without a hint of experimentation or adventure. In fact, January was the month of gay audiences cheering straight women. Sandy Van gave us our first real taste of female female impersonation in her show, *Dinosaurs Surviving the Crunch*. With Joseph Taro producing, the "Dinosaurs" have also survived the year, and will be revived again in January, 1988, at Teddy Bears.

The other big event—John Karr called it "Homosexual Church, a high and solemn rite"—was Barbara Cook in concert. This concert may have proved one thing once and for all: That the nature of Judy Garland Mania is an essential part of the

put us into an off cycle, but it didn't.

Gary Menger was on the scene before, during, and now also after City Cab and the Baybrick, producing cabaret shows. At Big Mama's, Menger has presented Michael Greer many times with great success, and at The Galleon, he has presented endless combinations of the known and the unknown "stars" of gay cabaret, a continuing series of hits with people like Hirata, Scott Johnston, and Cindy Herron.

Now Charles Duggan, the producer who keeps the Marines Memorial hopping, is preparing to re-open City Cabaret. But, that story belongs to 1988. Still, it suggests that at least one more savvy producer believes that the experiments on the cabaret scene this year have proven that there is more market than existing product in the intimate music and comedy medium. Cabaret fans

rejoice.

And, while the subject is cabaret, Joseph Taro's late 1987 experiments must be mentioned. He reworked the old *Queen for a Day* television show, had the Music Hall Theatre scattered with cocktail tables and, in the process, gave us a new twist on both the old-fangled drag show and the new kind of cabaret that is almost theatre.

A week later, again slightly twisting existing ideas, he started his Cabaret Concert series with Lynda Bergren, Danny Williams, Dan Fludd, and himself on stage. The Cabaret Concert series will continue in 1988. As for *Queen for a Day*, time will tell what is to come of that experiment.

Finally, yet another cabaret-theatre-revue combination debuted in 1987. It was called *Ah Men!* and it celebrated gay love by putting the romantic words of countless famous and obscure show tunes into the mouths of

men singing about men. In a shorter and tighter form, this show is meant to return to the stage—at the revived City Cabaret?—in 1988.

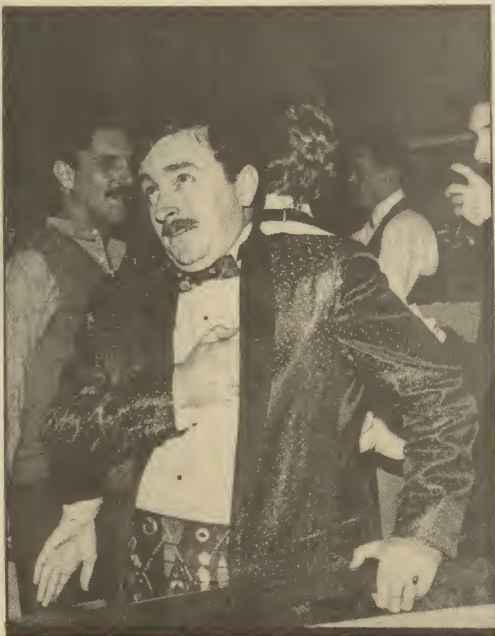
GAY PLAYS AND SUCH

The mainstay of gay theatre in San Francisco is, of course, Theatre Rhinoceros. But, while the tone of the year was experimentation, the mainstage at Rhino has been pretty conservative. Studio Rhinoceros, on the other hand, has been very important in the search for intelligent theatre in the post-hysterical Age of AIDS. And, there have been a lot of very adventurous independent productions, too.

Among the plays directly

related to the AIDS crisis were the revival of Doug Holsclaw's super-hit from 1986, *Life of the Party*; Tim Miller's multi-media, dance and drama performance piece, *Buddy Systems*; David Williams' minority AIDS-educational play, *Community at Risk*; and the controversial teens-and-AIDS play by the New Conservatory, *The Inner Circle*. Of these, the most experimental was probably *Community at Risk*. How much actual teaching can you get away with in the guise of a play, it seemed to ask. The answer, judging from the audience reactions, is that you can do a great deal of teaching to those who are prepared to hear.

The Inner Circle, performed



Danny Williams was a heart-stopper in '87

(Photo: Photo Graphics/Darlene)

by teen-aged students of Ed Decker, was probably pretty shocking for the parents of those teenagers. And, almost surely, it will be a factor in the saving of lives. It happens also to have been very decent entertainment, even though the laughs were few and far between. Chances are *Circle*, which has toured in Puerto Rico, will also be revived in 1988 or after.

Any list of non-AIDS-related, memorable and experimental moments of gay stage performance in 1987 has to begin with *Pulp and Circumstance*, Adele Prandini and Sue Zimmel's musical spoof of lesbian pulp novels. The success of this play will stand for years to come as proof that anything can happen in the theatre. After selling out and extending to the limits of the space available at Theatre Rhinoceros, *Pulp* played every available venue in San Francisco and the Purple Stages of the Fringe Festival in Los Angeles before finally retiring. Now, rumor has it that another producer is preparing to revive *Pulp* in the East Bay to test its possibilities for New York. (Why does this sound silly?)

Two imports pushed the artistic limits of Studio Rhinoceros a bit beyond their usual, if already adventurous limits this year: *Rents*, from Scotland, and *Poppies*, from London, England. While *Rents* didn't exactly break new ground in the sense of theatrical forms or styles, it demanded and got a highly professional production, one that would have been impossible in the Studio in previous years.

Poppies, on the other hand, broke new ground in every possible direction. It is a gay play, but only incidentally so. More centrally, it is an anti-war play. It is a linear play, presenting its elements chronologically, but it presents elements of two chronologies together, and sets them against a surreal world of the dead. For all its brilliant writing, for its stunning production, for performances that were only very slightly less than perfect, *Poppies* is my choice for Play of the Year for 1987—gay, straight, or otherwise!

The independent gay plays—that is, independent of Theatre Rhinoceros—were usually more

experimental. Gary Aylesworth's *Doom Folk*, for instance, was a not entirely successful combination of performance art, dramatic script, mime, and music. After his more successful work with *Bohemian Grove* earlier in the year, *Doom Folk* might seem to be a let down, but it is the nature of experimentation to have ups and downs on its way to a new level of understanding and achievement.

Joe (Tennessee in the Summer) Besecker's 1987 play, *Boats* is not very gay, but that too is an experiment of a sort. The gayer elements of the script were pared down in the rehearsal process and, without a doubt, this experiment worked. Besecker plays, it proved, don't need gay content to be gay plays, nor do they have to be gay to be good.

San Francisco finally got to see Martin Sherman's *Bent* this year. Now we know what we were missing, and we can keep waiting for a good production of it to come around. And, along the same non-experimental lines of plays long in coming to San Francisco, there was *Two by Mamet* at One Act Theatre. Seeing a very straight playwright's idea of a gay couple was interesting, but you couldn't help wondering why he did it since, obviously, he just didn't know what he was talking about.

Across the spectrum from Mamet, there was Charles Ludlam's *Irma Vep*. Production problems closed the show before many San Franciscans got to see it though. If it should come back—and that is a distinct possibility—with its production difficulties solved, it might join *Greater Tuna* and *Party of One* in the "running forever" category.

The work of playwrights new to the local public (regardless of their success in private circles or foreign cities) has been particularly interesting this year. David Alphin's *Axis*, Jean Stein's *When Mama Comes*, Dan Fludd's *It's Fascination*, and Demece Garapis' *American Fish* were all treatments of more or less realistic gay scenarios handled with varying degrees of success. The important thing in each of them is the promise of further, more tightly controlled work from the same writers in the future.



Aid & Comfort was only one of many successful fundraisers in '87

(Photo: Photo Graphics/Darlene)

Like *American Fish*, *Last Call For Murder* by Tom W. Kelly was a product of the Theatre Rhinoceros Playwright's Workshop. Unlike Garapis, however, Kelly is a writer whose plays have been very successfully mounted elsewhere. So *Last Call*, which Bernard Spunberg called "the surprise treat of the summer season," was just San Francisco's first glimpse of Kelly's work.

For adventurousness, though, the award (if there were one) would have to be split between Robert Goldstein's *Bobby* (August) and a dual presentation of solo performance works by Mark I. Chester and Tim Barrus called *Madness Is My Middle Name* (December). *Bobby* brought back all the excitement of early gay theatre, the sense of language being used to perform arcane gay magic, and the in-

describable thrill of self-discovery in someone else's biography.

While *Bobby* reached out and touched the universal reality of gay self-discovery, *Madness* drew us into a pair of extremely personal, non-universal gay worlds. Together, they were reminders of the special spark that made gay theatre feel so deliciously unstraight once upon a time.

MUSIC AND COMEDY

Musicians, singers, and comics have done almost continuous benefits in '87. Shows have been produced largely in support of AIDS-related organizations, but also to get people to the March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights, and for various other causes. And, there have even been some for-profit performances.

Among the highlights on the benefit calendar of the year are the Aid & Comfort show in June, the recent Romanovsky and Phillips performance in support of anti-violence programs, and the Joan Baez-Jerry Garcia concert in December. These, and probably another 80 to 100 benefits performed by musicians and comics this year, have had a tremendous effectiveness in terms of raising cash. But, on another level, they have become important performing arts opportunities, exercising and developing local talents.

Comic Danny Williams has become a far stronger performer this year, and much of his growth has come from the pressure to perform for "the same" audience week-in and week-out in one

(Continued on page 34)



Brian Thorstenson (l.) and Brad Erickson in *Life of the Party* (Photo: S. Cohen)

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The End of the Party

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Soul Survivor is Worth Braving the Smog!

by Robert Pruzan

If you haven't found an excuse to "do" Los Angeles lately, it's Anthony Bruno's latest *Soul Survivor*, a swiftly moving tour-de-force which is also entertaining, quick-witted, warm with chills, and hot with flesh!

It concerns two ever-so-hot-trot modern L.A. heroes inhibited in their physical romance by respect, and the spectre, of the dead. Jerry (Steven Patterson) is one of West Hollywood's finest leathermen, and Mark (Tom Wagner) an innocently pushy bottom, is ever-so-ripe for plucking. This could be their umpteenth sexless date and we watch the excitement, uncomfortableness, vulnerability, and adolescence as if it were our own first date: overlooking those not-so-fatal flaws so as not to disrupt that "one perfect moment." Gratefully, this is the night, and Sir Jerry, fed by Mark's sincerity, finally puts Mark through his paces. But the blithe spirit of dearly departed Brian has petitioned the Lord for one last earthly fling and, just prior to their next happy Hollywood tryst, Brian's ghost (Jerry Clerk) gathers enough ectoplasm to show up again in all his heavenly glory.

Actors and audience struggle together through the cocoon of the second act's absurdities, wanting/wishing to know if this is for real, and emerge flying beautifully in a repartee on the order of the Belasco/Puccini collaboration, *The Girl of the Golden West*:



Jerry (Steven Patterson) is interrupted by the ghost of his late lover (Jerry Clerk) in *Soul Survivor* (Photo: R. Pruzan)

And then you turned,
And seeing disappeared,
And eternity took its place

But just as the characters and audience bridge the gap of faith and the two worlds unite, the real date shows up and the ghost of Brian is relegated to the status of *Topper's* Marian Kirby.

Kudos are not enough for director Rudy Garza, who misses no beat of believability through these modulations. The play concludes most happily when Brian, now a mix of Der Marshallin, Martin Short, and the angel from *It's a Wonderful Life*, gives his

blessing to the human love. "Clairence" gets his wings, the gay widower relinquishes his fury towards his lover for "dying on him," and the significance of their spiritualized goodbye in the hospital can finally emerge.

All this in a barrage of emotions, often tear-wrenching, never morose, hilarious but never ridiculous. the playwright here is in complete control (as are his actors, lights, and staging). The success of this play is in no way fortuitous.

Bruno makes unabashed poetic use of contemporary syntax

and passion:

Take another breath, Mark.
Smell the leather.

Smell the warm hide on my skin.

The skin inside the skin.
Breathe in, Mark, breathe in.

It's leather, all right, but no less, love. They know it's love, and we know it's love. Even people outside the "gay persuasion" could see *Soul Survivor* and discover something about us. The most staid could object, but only politely, to the play's more revealed intimate moments which add heat, shape, and color

to an already moving ensemble. It's for real, though Jessie Helms surely would not approve.

And funny? Bruno knows our greatest gift is to laugh at ourselves:

Mark: I think I'm getting a hard-on.

Jerry: You mean you don't know?

The Spirit of Brian: Rejecting a dead person is beyond rude! Jerry (to Brian, about Mark): He's not a tart, he's a Republican!

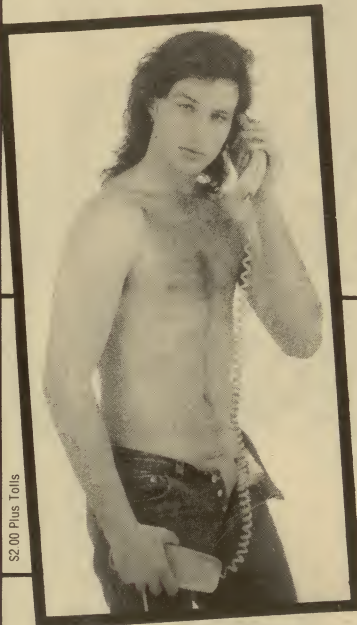
We do not question the sources from which Bruno draws: films, the Best of Hollywood, and his own autobiography. No emotion is suggested and not explored, no questions linger in the mind of the audience which the author does not intend, or answer. We leave the theater with the impression of a perfect blend of work, characters, actors, direction, lighting (by John Sowle), and design (by Jimmy Cuomo). And ooooo, those steamy actors. One senses the sacrifice which is theater. One never has the impression they are giving less than each one's all in this production.

Why is this show so important? Because it renews our romantic license, gives shape to the transitions in our disrupted, terrorized lives. We who remain may love again, and anew.

Neil Simon, sit down! Here is great theater which just happens to be gay, relevant, exciting, alive, and loving.

★★★★
Soul Survivor
Richmond Shepard Theatre
6476 Santa Monica Blvd.
Thursdays-Sundays 8 p.m.
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Call 213-466-1767 for details

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McNight Rings In New Year

San Francisco producer Charles H. Duggan has acquired the City Cabaret, located at 401 Mason Street, and announced his first production there will be a New Year's Eve gala featuring multi award-winning singer Sharon McNight, along with a buffet dinner and champagne.

The New Year's Eve gala at \$60 per person will include a bottle of champagne per couple, full buffet dinner and entertainment by Sharon McNight, who has three times been named the Cabaret Gold Awards' Entertainer of

the Year in San Francisco and was this year named the Manhattan Association of Cabarets Female Vocalist of the Year in New York. McNight, who has released three successful albums, is also Honorary Co-Chair of San Francisco's AIDS Emergency Fund, and is currently starring in *Nunsense* at the Marine's Memorial Theatre.

Tickets to the New Year's Eve Gala can be charged by phone at 771-6900 or purchased at the Marines Memorial Theatre Box Office, 609 Sutter Street. ●

LA Gay Fest Needs Entertainers

WEST HOLLYWOOD—Christopher Street West/Los Angeles is seeking individuals and groups to provide entertainment at the 1988 Gay & Lesbian Pride Festival to be held in West Hollywood, California on Saturday and Sunday, June 25 and 26, 1988. A wide variety of entertainers are being sought, from Country Western to Blues, from dancers to rock 'n' roll bands.

Entertainers should submit audition tapes (audio cassette or VHS video) to Christopher Street West/Los Angeles, Entertainment Committee, 7985 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 109-24, West Hollywood, CA 90046. The deadline for consideration is March 1, 1988. For more information, call Entertainment Committee Chair John Logan at (213) 737-2672.

Christopher Street West/Los Angeles is the producer and host of the annual Gay & Lesbian Pride Celebration, including the Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Pride

Parade. Christopher Street West is also active as a community support organization, having provided substantial funding for the National March On Washington for Lesbian & Gay Rights and the Greater Los Angeles AIDS Hospice Foundation (GLAAHF), among many others.

For more information, call Christopher Street West at (213) 656-6553, or write to 7985 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 109-24, West Hollywood, CA 90046. ●

Arimondi

Arimondi will be showing his photographs at My Place, 1225 Folsom St., through Jan. 12. ●

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Seeing the Quilt

What do you see when you see the Names Project quilt? I see the humor and creativity, the beautiful imagination and painful grief of its creators. I see the sadness of its segments; the many people whose destiny culminates in several feet of appliqued material. But most of all, I see the stories in the quilt. There are thousands of them, and in those stories, the destinies are fulfilled. All we have to do is look and read and feel this incredible document.

Some of the stories are spelled out right on the quilt. But some are hidden within it, like the two that I can tell; these are my quilts. One is short, the other longer.

One segment of the quilt is for Ron Carey. When Ron tricked with my roommate years ago we nicknamed him "Cowboy" because of his habitual distinctive clothing. Our paths crossed for years, at the bakery he owned, "The Cake Shop," and even at SF Jacks. I remember him now for his head-to-toe cowboyness, for the *tres* gay icing decoration of his cakes, but most of all as the man for whom Jacks perpetuated dress-up nights.

Cowboy came to Jacks faithfully, but at one point began turning up only on infrequent costume nights. I didn't realize why, until the night somebody whispered to me in urgent horror, "There's a man in here with lesions!"

I shrugged. All the more reason he should be there, I thought. I realized that the usual mandatory nudity of Jacks had inhibited Cowboy from attending. It was then that Jacks began to schedule dress-up nights on a monthly basis, and Cowboy was able to party—and a hearty partier he always was—at several of them. His spirit is still with us.

The second story finds me in distress, looking for help. Nearing 40, I was precipitously involved in what they call a mid-life crisis, which was compounded by career change, substance abuse, and a fear of the apparent death sentence of AIDS. So, although I'd always resisted it, I sought counseling.

The therapist I saw was Michael Frigo, who had a private practice in the Castro, as well as a large number of clients connected with the SF City Clinic AIDS Study. It was there that I met him, and after several meetings Michael's calm acceptance helped me overcome my reticence to broach my personal problems. The third week I arrived enthused. I had realized my commitment to therapy and felt I could apply myself and make progress. Michael was pleased with that, but told me we'd have to take a two-week break because



It was a moving scene at Moscone

(Photo: Rink)

he was going to the World AIDS Conference in Paris to deliver a paper he'd written.

Michael had never been to Europe, and was proud, though boyishly modest, about presenting a paper to his peers at the important conference. Although happy for Michael, I was personally disappointed. I was desperate to escape my depression, eager to begin work with him. Now I had to put it on hold for several weeks.

I was mad when Michael wasn't at his office when I went for my first session after his return. He was ill, and the receptionist hadn't called me. My problems were on hold for another week.

When Michael missed my appointment the next week, I became concerned for him beyond the setback to my therapy. What was wrong with him? I asked his business associate. He had been hospitalized shortly after his return from Paris. He had pneumocystis. And before several more days could pass, he was dead.

Michael disappeared so suddenly I was stunned. One week on vacation in Paris, the next week, dead. That caught me with a strange, double-sided grief; more for myself than for him. Although I wanted to grieve for him, as a patient I had been dumped, deserted in a despairing state. Yet I knew, at least, that I was alive. Poor Michael was not. How could I be so selfish?

Even though a client—a patient—is a supplicant to his doctor, and even though a client doesn't expect to hear about his therapist's personal life, hadn't there been any signs from Michael I could have read?

There was the incident when I asked how he dealt with the collective grief and depression of his

many clients, and he calmly told me he took Valium.

There was the incident when—at our last meeting before the supposed brief interruption of his trip to Paris—he hugged me at the conclusion of our session. I was too tied up inside myself to give much back, but I could feel the genuine force of his love and concern.

And there was his beautiful complexion, which I'd admired throughout our several sessions. His skin had the smooth, translucent glow of porcelain, particularly around his eyes. It was so beautiful you'd think he was wearing make-up.

Of course, he was. To cover his lesions. A friend of Michael's told me later he'd had AIDS for some time. He didn't want his clients to know, and had been able to continue working for many months. But after the satisfaction of seeing Paris with his lover and delivering his paper at the conference, he seemed to have given up the fight for his health. He was bedridden, and then dead, within days of his return to San Francisco.

I couldn't have been expected to see through Michael's make-up or abundantly displayed love to see that he was more ill than I. And that was Michael's great gift, which he gave to many more people than just myself. When he could have been grieving the foreseeable end of his own life, he was helping others achieve peace in theirs.

Michael's untold story has given me strength, inspiration, and direction. Seeing his name on the floor at Moscone Hall made me remember his love for me—a love so generous that alone it could have carpeted the entire convention hall, the way the quilt did with 2,000 pieces.

But that's the story of each segment of the quilt, and that's what I see in it. In the stories it tells, in the remembrance of friends, the quilt is love made visible.



... and in Washington (Photo: Photo Graphics/Darlène)

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Jokers Are Wild

As the year comes to a close, most of us find ourselves taking stock of the events which have shaped our lives during the past twelve months. Not only have there been some pretty distinct highs and lows, I sincerely doubt that anyone reading this column can claim that his growth experiences during 1987 were untarnished by the death of a friend, acquaintance or loved one.

One of the most astounding offshoots of the AIDS crisis has been the rise of volunteerism within the gay community; a force directly opposed to the self-indulgent lifestyles which were once the norm among so many of our dearly departed friends. If our lives now seem less carefree and more urgent, it's not because we're running out of time. It's because, in so many, many ways, the current health crisis has warned us not to fritter our lives away with self-destructive patterns of behavior.

What we must never forget is that life is for the living and, similarly, that the sheer act of survival requires guts, stamina, determination and the desire to take control of one's destiny. Obsessive forms of behavior—whether they be focused around drugs, sex, alcohol or food—are now being examined by many gay men from more cautious and world-weary perspectives.

Unfortunately, there will always be some compulsive gamblers in the crowd. This is not a reference to gloryhole warriors or little old ladies who routinely

play the slots in Reno, Las Vegas and Atlantic City. Instead, it concerns the story of a man so obsessed with the mystique of a winning succession of cards that he would destroy everything in his path in a selfish attempt to discover its secret.

A RAW DEAL

The opening night reviews for the San Francisco Opera's final production of the 1987 season, *Queen of Spades*, took such wildly opposing viewpoints that one wondered if the Chronicle's Robert Commanday and Examiner's Allan Ulrich had been present at the same event. The performance I attended several nights later was mercifully free of the sinful somnolence which afflicts San Francisco society's regular subscription series. Nor did the production seem to be suffering from inadequate rehearsal time.

If anything, this was one occasion when, contrary to the usual charge, the production suffered from the opera! Although it claims many beautiful orchestral moments in its score, much of Tchaikovsky's *Queen of Spades* is excessively talky and dramatically stagnant. Given half a chance, *Queen of Spades* can become a frightfully dull evening in the theatre.

With the help of Emil Tchakarov's exceptionally vital work in the pit (one of the few times this season I felt as if the instrumentalists were genuinely excited by the music they were playing) and Christopher Bergen's Super-



A nervous Lisa (Stefka Evstatieva) listens as Gherman (Wieslaw Ochman) pours out his love in a scene from Tchaikovsky's *The Queen of Spades*

titles, the company did its best to mount Tchaikovsky's opera with as much respect as possible.

There was plenty to respect. Despite her subdued stage personality, soprano Stefka Evstatieva's Lisa had plenty of vocal weight. Timothy Noble's compelling Tomsy and J. Patrick Raftery's restrained Prince Yeletsky were pleasantly sung. Susan Patterson's Chloe, Sara Ganz's Masha and Donna Petersen's fussy governess offered strongly-etched cameos.

Unfortunately, neither Robert O'Hearn's luxuriant sets and costumes, Basil Coleman's relatively clean stage direction nor Vassili Sulich's choreography could rescue the opera from its

overblown lethargy. Much of the evening's dramatic weight rested on the shoulders of Wieslaw Ochman's Gherman which, after a rocky vocal start, gained strength and dramatic impetus as the evening wore on.

However, my one major point of dissension with regard to this production is the casting of mezzo-soprano Regine Crespin as Tchaikovsky's old Countess. It's hardly any secret that Crespin is one of Terry McEwen's closest and dearest friends (or that the role of the Countess is often sung by aging divas who are trying to keep active in the final stages of their professional careers).

Nevertheless, when push comes to shove, the role of the Countess is nowhere as critical to the success of this opera as many would like to believe. Yes, it is an interesting cameo. Yes, it affords a singer a beautiful dramatic turn. And, yes, it should be cast with a strong personality. But the role does not demand the services of an artist whose exorbitant fee could be better spent in other areas of production. My guess is that if San Francisco Opera had hired someone like Elaine Bonazzi—an exceptional American artist who could have done a whale of a job with this role—they could have saved nearly \$30,000 on the production and gotten as much, if not more for their money than they did from Madame Crespin. Nor would they have had to get the old Countess back up into period drag for her curtain call because the artist singing the role didn't want to take her bows looking like an old woman.

I've spoken my mind on the matter. Pace, pace, mio Dio.

SHUT UP AND DEAL

In reviewing the strengths and weaknesses of the 1987 season, some observations are in order. Although the company's newly-created productions (Beethoven's *Fidelio*, Verdi's *La Traviata* and Mozart's *The Magic Flute*) obviously received a great deal of loving care and attention, it was the Greater Miami Opera's production of Offenbach's *Tales of Hoffmann*—with or without Plácido Domingo appearing in the title role—which became the smash hit of the season. This *Hoffmann*, alas, was a stern reminder of the kind of artistic standards the San Francisco Opera has a responsibility to live up to; standards which all too often have fallen to the wayside during the current administration.

Revivals of productions which were created in previous McEwen seasons (Strauss's *Salome* and Tchaikovsky's *Queen of Spades*) were given respectable treatment. However, the two productions borrowed from other companies (Lyric Opera of Chicago's *Tosca* and the Met's *Romeo et Juliette*) which, at least initially, had been cast with less than stellar artists, really got the shaft. Those productions which dated from the Adler administration (Verdi's *Nabucco* and Rossini's *The Barber of Seville*) received similarly shoddy treatment.

Several singers who appeared during the 1987 season were reaping the financial benefits of consolation contracts offered to fulfill the company's legal obligations after the cancellation of 1987's June productions of Strauss's *Die Frau Ohne Schatten*, Tippett's *A Midsummer Marriage* and Puccini's *La Fanciulla Del West*. And, while I'll be the first to admit that McEwen tackled the company's string of unfortunate cancellations with skill, there can be no forgiving the atrocious sounds which came from Joseph Rouleau's Capulet or Olivia Stapp's *Tosca*.

A long-standing member of the Executive Committee of the San Francisco Opera's Board of Directors confessed to me that he had not attended 1987's thoroughly wretched and artistically reprehensible *Tosca* "because that was kind of forced on us." What, I wonder, was his excuse for forcing such trash on the San Francisco Opera's subscribers?

As we continued to speak, this man stressed the great composers whose music had been performed this season. "Think of it, George: Tchaikovsky, Beethoven, Mozart, and Strauss. Such great music!"

There are no doubts in mind about the artistic contributions made to the San Francisco Opera's 1987 Fall season by composers who are long dead and gone. My biggest complaint concerns the inexcusably shoddy production standards which are so frequently embraced by those who are still living and employed by the company.

o•ri•gi•nal
(a•ri•j•a•nal)

a. earliest; new; not copied or derived. See: Bay Area Reporter

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Mr. Marcus

And Now For The Main Event . . .

The countdown continues as we all begin to wring out the old (1987) and ring in the new year. In spite of all the set-backs and disappointments many of us faced, 1987 was not without merit. Consider the many thousands of dollars raised for virtually every "cause" imaginable.

The AIDS Emergency Fund's \$1 million goal was not realized, but it came real close! Their grants to AIDS patients was raised to \$1,000 per annum, and the many fundraisers that were successful are strong indicators that the AEF is one of the most respected AIDS agencies in town.

It is gratifying to see that the gay Latino community has responded to the crisis and has begun active campaigns to raise needed funds and educate the community about the AIDS epidemic.

Coming Home, Shanti, Open Hand, and the Godfather Fund are all thankful for your largesse throughout 1987.

South of Market continues to prosper in spite of the yuppie invasion on their turf. The dire predictions that the Miracle Mile would be moved to South of South of Market (possibly Potrero Hill) proved to be false.

The old Arena was temporarily occupied by Club Nine, and is now the home of the Stud where Lady Edy and the Stud-ettes reign supreme on the corner of 9th & Harrison.

The demise of the beloved Ambush on Harrison raised a lot of wailing and teeth gnashing, yet



Intl. Ms. Leather '87 Judy Tallwing-McCarthy
(Photo: R. Pruzan)

the mystique of the Ambush lives in the old Ramrod location at 1225 Folsom and is now called My Place. Exactly who is "My"?

Ken Ferguson, Norman Baizley, and Jack still push the booze and the ashtrays there, and despite their long hiatus from pouring real liquor, they segued into booze with no problem.

The Watering Hole is alive and well with Bryan Todd at the helm, and of course the Endup thrives with the cha-cha queens and the fabulous buns in attendance.

Thanks to John Kass' entrepreneurial acumen, the '88 Buns Calendar is a hit all over the place, not only here in Faghdad-by-the-Bay but thanks to plugs in Drummer and big advertising, it is a runaway hit.

The SF-Eagle is deluged with mail orders for their bare chest contest calendar, and the feud escalates between Terry Thompson and Bob Linsley of the LA Gauntlet II as to which is the best!

Leatherdom's glorious puss is blessed with a plethora of bright new faces, to wit: Bill Johansen, Mr. Leather of SF; Shadow Morton, Ms. Leather of SF; Judy "Tallwing" McCarthy, Intl. Ms. Leather; Tom Karasch, Intl. Mr. Leather; Zack Long, Leather Daddy (untiring worker); John Cassas the Leather Daddy's Boy; James Buhler, Mr. CMC Carnival; and Chad Siebold, Mr. South of Market. All are dedicated to helping raise funds for mostly the AIDS agencies in our midst. They'll help us apprecia-8 '88!

As for the chewing out I got from Sky Renfrow, I still love leather women and will support their efforts. I feel my 16 years

(Continued on next page)



Mr. S.F. Leather '87 Bill Johansen (Photo: R. Pruzan)

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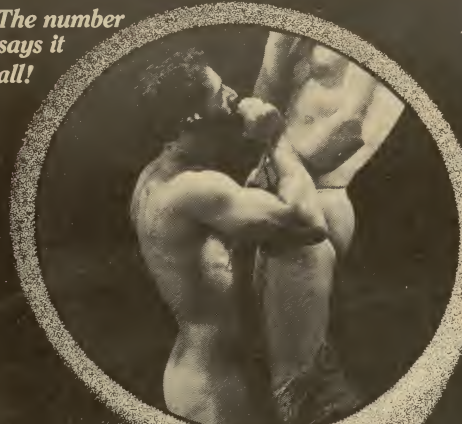
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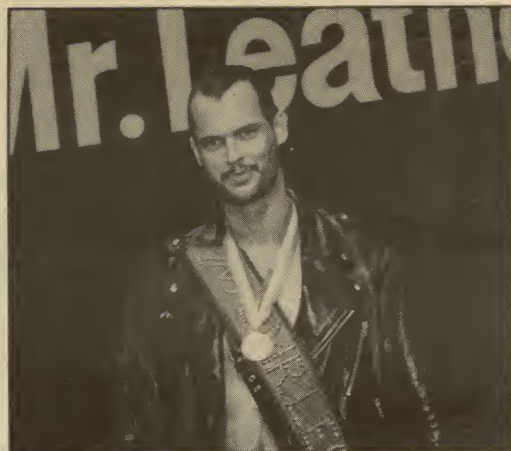
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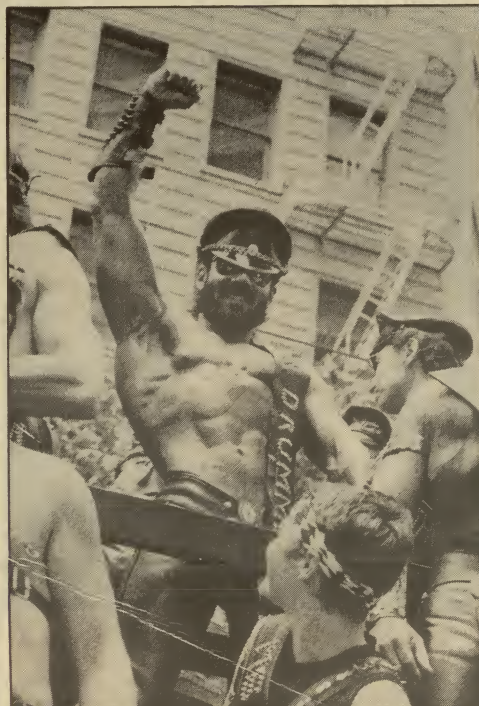
dealing with the leather commu-
nity, bike clubs, bikers, S&M, and
the leather/levi/western crowd
give me a pretty good insight as
to who is leather and who isn't.
I thank you all for your letters in
this regard. It doesn't take long
to know who is into leather as op-
posed to who's "in" leather. I do
appreciate your input, however,
Sky.

And how about Marga Gomez
and Danny Williams? Their in-
put into all our efforts to raise
money was gratifying, not only
for their dedication but because
they skillfully injected a lot of
much-needed humor when we
needed it the most. Sandy Van
and Tom Ammiano did their
share, and so did all the stand-up
comedy kids in our community.
All of them showed up for the
Blazing Redheads benefit to
raise money for their stolen in-



Intl. Mr. Leather '87 Tom Karasch

(Photo: Marcus)



Mr. Drummer '87 Mark Alexander

(Photo: R. Pruzan)

players, and tennis teams all did
their part too, not to mention the
FrontRunners and the Castro
Lions.

And what about the spiritual
element in our midst with Digni-
ty and Congregation Sha'ar
Zahav. The AIDS Food Bank,
Open Hand (Bless you Ruth
Brinker), Godfather Fund, and
the AIDS/ARC Vigil? It's been a
loving, caring year in spite of our
setbacks and only proves that we
can, yes dear brothers and sisters,
we can take care of our own. It
only takes a little sacrifice—after
all who needs that extra drink or
that pack of smokes?

And all the volunteers! A hu-
morous list of people who never
get credit; they wash the dishes,
clean up the messes, haul the
food, and the auction items,
count the money, address the in-
vitations, lick the stamps, man
the phones, serve the food, find
the entertainment.

And Deena Jones belting it
out; Tatiana's drag shows at
Kimo's (There's one this coming
Saturday night!); Men Behind
Bars IV coming in Feb. with lots
of big bucks to be raised; Min-
sky's, the CMC Carnival, Doro-
thy Duster's LePiu perfume,
Freddy Skau's penny campaign,
and the world's thinnest Santa,
Gary Brown, collecting the loot

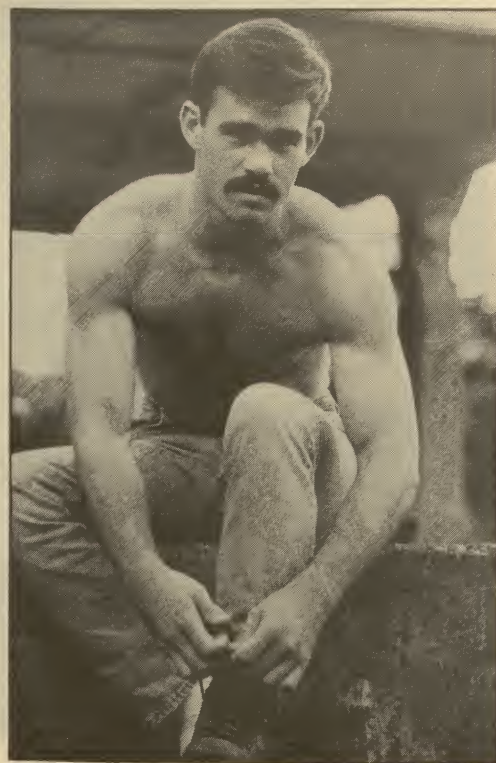
(Continued on next page)

struments, to mention just one
outpouring of brotherly/sisterly
love that exists here.

In spite of his loss in the
mayoral campaign, John Moli-
nari remains our friend. And his
fun and gracious wife, Louise,
didn't drop the ball either. She'll
serve alongside my publisher
Bob Ross and Danny Williams as
the new co-chairs of the AIDS
Emergency Fund for 1988-89. I
loved serving in that capacity
with my sweetheart Sharon
McNight. It was fun and more
importantly, beneficial to those
who need(ed) financial help.

There was so much going on
all year. The Event '87, Blessing
of the Bikes; Dore Alley Fair;
Folsom Street; the March on
Washington and the Names Pro-
ject. And all the appearances by
our choruses (Gay Men's and
Gay/Lesbian Chorus), not to men-
tion Dick Kramer's Chorale, the
Tap Troup, the bowlers, wrestlers,
bikers, AIDS walk, and the Gay
World Series. Between Randy
Schiller, Don Johnson, Bob Golo-
vich, Bill Fink, Rick Booth, Jerry
Pepper, Erik Nielsen, Dick Col-
lier, Sanford Kellman, Bradley
Wise, Jerry Coletti, the Comstock
Club, Le Domino, the Mint, New
Bell, White Swallow, Teddy
Bears, Ivy's, and Chez Mollet, it's
hard to determine whether any-
thing would have gotten done.

The Coming Home Bingo
Games and all their volunteers,
the GSL, wrestlers, football



Mr. South of Market '87 Chad Seibold

(Photo: R. Pruzan)

(Continued from previous page)
on Castro.

And what about the "anonymous" donors who quietly volunteer or donate big big checks you never hear about? Yeah, guys and girls, the women who donate blood when most of the men can't. Yes, give yourselves a big, I mean a *big* pat on the back—and don't let up, don't ever let up—we can work it out. We will work it out. Thanks for the memories.

★ ★ ★

It's only a few hours until 1988 arrives. On New Year's Eve they'll be celebrating all over town. Trocadero Transfer celebrates its 1st decade as one of the premier disco palaces on the West Coast. It's "Countdown!" and begins at 2200 and continues until dawn. This will be the last "dawn" party of the decade—after this, Troc will close at 0400 hours!

Recording artists Modern Rocketry will perform at Countdown! DJ Michael Jorba from NY will spin, and advance tickets are only \$15, or \$20 at the door.

Randy Steven Schiller, Sanford Alan Kellman, and Bradley Chester Wise present the annual So Many Men! New Year's Eve party at the Gifcenter Pavilion from 2100 to 0700 Jan. 1. Direct from Miami Beach, "Company B" will perform, along with Matt & Chad (jugglers). High energy DJ Michael Garrett will spin with lights by Phil Quintero. (Where have I heard that name before?) At the stroke of midnight, you'll witness a journey through the first light of 1988. At this point, the tickets are \$25 (they were \$19.88 before 12/25). It'll cost you \$35 at the door for this audio/visual extravaganza.

They'll be living it up at the Endup too, and all the restaurants will be serving extra special dinners before you hit the bright lights. I hope you've made your reservations!

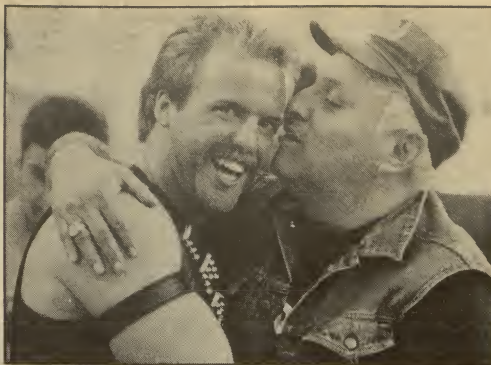
South of Market bars will provide surprises at every turn—ranging in the new with your best friends. Live, love, laugh and be sure to do it in leather.

Due to my limited excursionary privileges, I hope to be mostly South of Market at least for a little while. After all, the hottest bars and the hottest dance parties are all South of Market, so why not? Stay away from Broadway—there's no topless there anymore anyway.

★ ★ ★

The dish this week is set aside. While you're thinking about making merry this New Year's Eve, think about some of these resolutions—they might apply to you in some way:

- I'll not spend more than half an hour in the shower at the gym;
- I will absolutely quit falling in love with bartenders (except Hadley at the Eagle, Donny at the Powerhouse, Norman at My Place, Kim at the Midnight Sun,



Mr. CMC Carnival '87 James Buhler (l.) with the Leather Emperor of S.F. (Photo: R. Pruzan)

or Steve at the Phoenix);

- I will quit telling my parents that "I just haven't met the right girl";
- I will not measure it, no matter who asks;
- I will not cruise during church services;
- I will make friends with a straight man;
- After making friends I will not try to get him in bed;
- I will never never go to another grand opening of a bar or a bar's anniversary party

number on the bill;

- I will learn to eat alone—and like it;
- I will not criticize my buddy's tricks or lovers;
- I will quit hoping that my friend Dick drops his lover John so I can have a shot at Dick;
- I will quit hoping my friend John drops his lover Dick so I can have a shot at John;

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Why not have a three-way with John and Dick?)

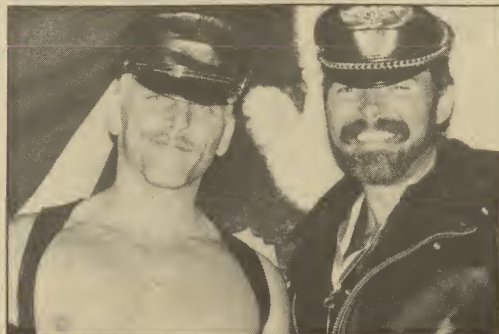
(Continued on next page)



Ms. S.F. Leather '87 Shadow Morton (Photo: R. Pruzan)

where they are serving free drinks;

- When paying for drinks, I will not write my phone number on the bills;
- I will quit thinking that a hot bartender actually will call the



Mr. Leather Daddy '87 Zack Long (r.) with Mr. Leather Daddy '86 Tom Rodgers (Photo: R. Pruzan)

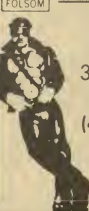
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Leather Daddy's Boy '87 John Cassas (Photo: R. Pruzan)

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SAVE THRU JANUARY 31, 1988

Karl's Calendar

THURSDAY 12/31

New Year's Eve Party, SF-Eagle, 8 p.m.-2 a.m., noisemakers and champagne.

New Year's Eve Party, Kimo's, 9 p.m., show, noisemakers.

New Year's Eve Party, Kokpit, 9 p.m., noisemakers.

New Year's Eve Party, Mint, 10 p.m., noisemakers.

New Year's Eve Party, Trocadero Transfer, 10 p.m. til

dawn, champagne, hors d'oeuvres and noisemakers, entertainment "Modern Rocketry," tickets \$15 advance, \$20 at the door.

FRIDAY 1/1

Constantine's, Serving "Connie Dogs," SF-Eagle patio, Friday and Saturday nights, 11 p.m.-1 a.m., \$2 (large and juicy).

SATURDAY 1/2

Hangover Hash, Kokpit, 9 a.m.-12 p.m., food and games.

Tatiana and Company Present 1st Saturday, Kimo's,

9 p.m., \$5 donation, show, guest star Danny Williams, benefit San Francisco AIDS Foundation Food Bank.

SUNDAY 1/3

Employee's Beer Bust, SF-Eagle, 3-6 p.m., \$7.

Tammy Lynn's Birthday Party, Kimo's, 4 p.m., show 6 p.m.

THURSDAY 1/7

Desiree Revue, N'Touch, showtimes 10:30 p.m. and 12:15 a.m.

Compiled by Dierdre

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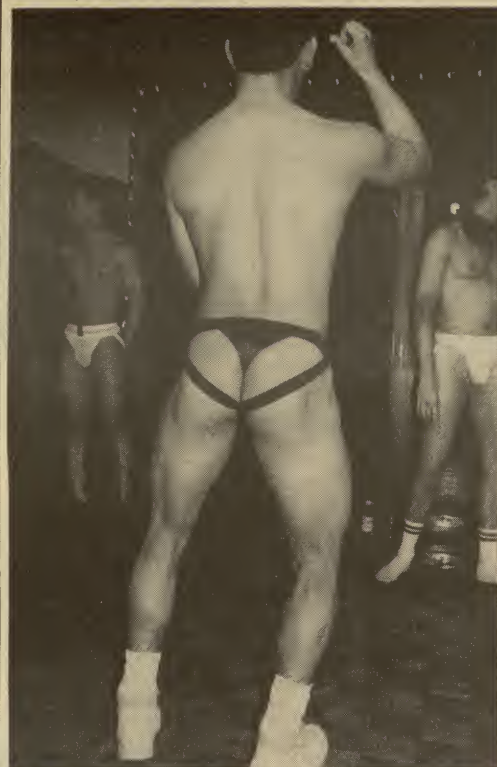
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(Continued from previous page)



Buns were a big feature of '87

(Photo: R. Pruzan)

• I will quit using poppers totally;

• I will stop fantasizing about Cable TV and telephone installers;

• I will only take drugs that have safety seals on the package (or marry a gay pharmacist);

• I will rip off all the alligators, polo players, foxes, and club names off my shirts;

• I will never again buy a bar T-shirt—they should pay me for advertising;

• When some hot number asks me what I do, I will not automatically think he's asking about my sexual proclivities;

• I will never correct someone who calls our city "Frisco" in-

stead of San Francisco;

• I will clean out my desk of old telephone numbers;

• I will not buy another pair of streaked Levi 501's;

• I will stop thinking that I didn't have a good time because I didn't meet somebody hot, hunky, horny, and interested;

• I will do everything in my power to stay healthy and try to support every worthwhile cause that comes my way.

★ ★ ★

• Hey dudes and dudettes, here's wishing you all the best in 1988. Go out, have fun, be careful, and thanks—thanks for the memories!

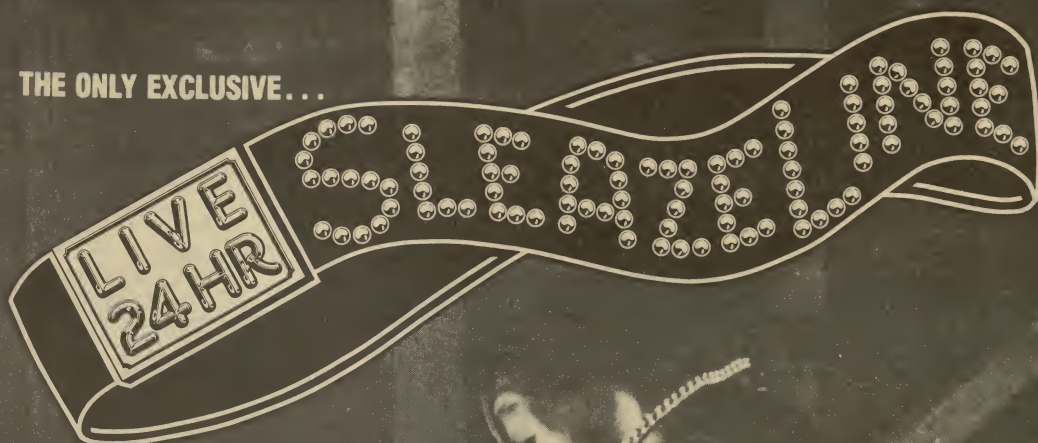


Marga Gomez fans had a great '87

(Photo: Marcus)

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Arts '87

(Continued from page 25)

benefit after another. Menage, the chamber-size pop ensemble from the Lesbian and Gay Chorus has grown by giant strides, too. Tom Ammiano, Men About Town, Sandy Van, and the major gay choruses have also made good use of these opportunities to hone and display their skills.

Surely the brightest light among the benefits and the most

interesting evening of music and comedy in 1987 was *You and the Night and the Music* at the Venetian Room. This was the third year for *Y&TN&TM*, a sold-out super-hit featuring Michael Greer and most of the Bay Area's best solo and ensemble performers of music and comedy.

The other top-significance musical events of the past year were the concerts of the Society of Lesbian and Gay Composers. These concerts of new music from and for our community ought to be mobbed, sold-out, and expanded.

Instead, while premiering important work by people like Seth Montforth and Rodger Pettyjohn, the shows are under-attended and ill-supported. Perhaps 1988 will be the year when San Francisco discovers the treasure it has in the Society.

BOOKS

Nineteen-eighty-seven was the year of the serious book in gay America. Randy Shilts' controversial *And the Band Played On* is the biggest hit of the year, heading a huge list of AIDS-

related titles. Mark Thompson's *Gay Spirit* also topped, and in a sense defined a genre, books exploring and explaining gay spirituality. And, the top of the year's gay fiction list is Armistead Maupin's latest volume of "Tales of the City," called *Significant Others*.

Gay poetry took several major steps in 1987. Michael Mayo edited *Practising Angels*, a superb anthology of local poets. He also published his own anti-war, anti-violence poems in a slim volume called *All Fall Down*. James Broughton read everywhere, finally unveiling his long-awaited "Ode to Gaiety" in a show produced by the Radical Faeries this fall. And, on the eve of the poet's 75th year, Pennywhistle Press published a new volume of Broughton's poetry, *Hooplas*.

Even with hundreds of new and reprinted titles coming out, the big book news in San Francisco this year is about bookstores more than books. Walt Whitman Bookstore got a much needed shakeup and may yet be able to recover as a significant social and literary participant in the gay community here. Crown Books continued. And two new all-gay bookstores opened on Castro.

The Love That Dares opened in the Castro storefront that used to be All That Jazz, and A Different Light opened in the old

Obelisk shop. So, 1987 was apparently the year when San Francisco's lesbian and gay men decided to spend what was kitch-cash on facts and fictions.

Having four stores selling new books and a fifth, Books Etc., selling mostly used books in the few short blocks of the Castro area would seem to be yet another experiment. How many bookstores can we support? How many do we want? There is no reason to think five is too many, but the answers lie in 1988 and beyond.

LAST GLANCE

Overall, 1987 has not been a banner year in local gay arts. Political losses, threats to physical survival, and the decimation by AIDS of the creators of gay culture have all done their worst. But, times like these are the learning and growing periods. They supply the impetus for performers and producers to reconsider what they are doing and reshape their shows. Times like now also supply the raw material and inspiration for new works of music, drama, literature, and even comedy. Periods like 1987, more than anything, work to draw the performing artists closer to the community they serve and represent, and that makes 1988—already a promising year—already a more interesting. ●

"First you lick my boots."



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Disney's Divine One Now Feels Guilty

by Bob Woolhouse

The latest Vanity Fair does a puff piece on Bette Midler, headlining her as, "The Most Bankable Star In Hollywood. What Was Once Outrageous Is Now Disney Mainstream." Subhead: "The Belle of the Baths Feels Guilty Now." In the Divine One's own words, "I was helping to make it seem like fun."

If that doesn't make us believe we're in a new era, nothing will.

COSMO SIZE QUEENS

The ever with it Helen Gurley Brown publishes in the current Cosmopolitan "The Ten Toughest Topics" for men in relationships: "First Comes His Hairline . . . Second, His Penis Size." She advises, "Compliment his style, not his equipment. Men love technical talk."

One wonders if she did her research in hair salons rather than in locker rooms. Perhaps this is where KFOG got inspiration for its new Upper Market billboard, "It's not the size. It's the frequency." Does this billboard show anywhere else but in the Castro?

LEGAL HUNKS

Cosmopolitan continues to enlighten its mousebergers with, "A Behind The Scenes Look At L.A. Law. Characters Are Obsessed With Two Kinds of Briefs: Legal and Their Calvins." The headline, however, delivers more than the article, which rushes along in sorority fashion with, "Last year L.A. Law's female contingent tackled the issue (of sex appeal) at a woman-only party thrown by Michelle Green."

Naturally the talk was about who was the show's sexiest hunk. Susan Ruttan says, "Corbin Bernsen is really handsome and wonderful . . . Michael Tucker is the most adorable—everyone wants to pinch his cheeks. Harry Hamlin is also gorgeous. He's more cerebral,

physically nice to look at . . . but we decided Jimmy Smits is the sexiest man on the show."

HEARD ON THE STREET

The Wall St. Journal has just come out with a top of the front page story that "AIDS Is Decimating The Fashion Business." It quotes a Bloomingdale's vice president who says, "The disease is a specter for all businesses, of course. But it is taking an especially grim toll in the rag trade where many homosexuals have achieved success. Along with the tragic loss of life, we're losing creativity, which is the industry's foundation."

For half a page, the article discusses how top designers cannot be easily replaced, how difficult it is for unmarried men to secure jobs in fashion, and how women are finding more opportunities. It also mentions the death of Perry Ellis, pointing out his denials that he ever had AIDS as well as his company's denial that he died of AIDS because it was considered to be "bad for business in a world where appearances and coverups are all important."

YEAR END HONOR ROLL

It's that time of year again and the lists are coming out. Esquire nominates shoe designer Kenneth Cole with, "He is a member of the board of directors and a prime mover in the American Foundation of AIDS Research. He coordinates the AIDS Awareness Campaign . . . to which he also contributed his company's entire \$250,000 advertising budget. He ran the ad with company logo, picture of a condom and one line of copy: Shoes are not the only thing we encourage you to wear."

Vanity Fair nominates actor Charles Ludlam, "Because by the time he died of AIDS at 44, his Ridiculous Theatre Company had made low camp into high art . . . because he was the Orson Wells of Downtown."

And so it goes . . . ●

B.A.R. PEOPLE & PERSONALS

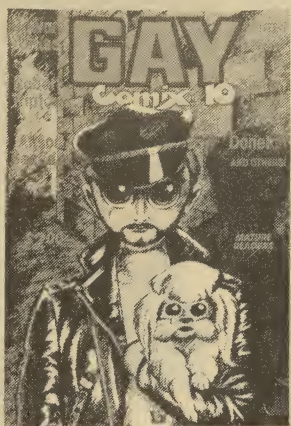
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for merit. See: B.A.R.

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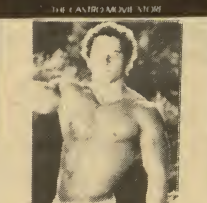
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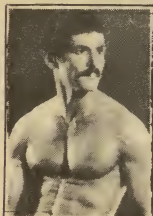
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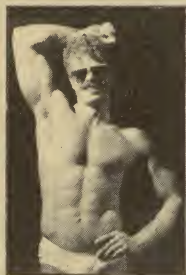
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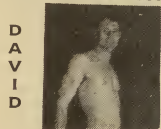
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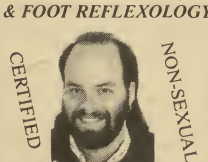
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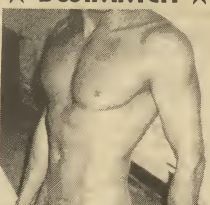
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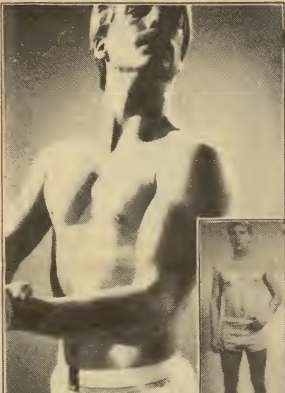
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But It Still Needs You!

Team SF Has Hopes, Dreams



Shawn Kelley

(Photo: M. Hicks)

by Rick Thoman

Dr. Tom Waddell's vision of the Gay Games was an event that included all—both men and women, all races, all ages, athlete and non-athlete alike. Rather than viewing this diversity as a "lowering of standards" by including "unskilled, non-competitive" participants, the Games were instead set up to encompass the broad spectrum of the gay community, a gathering on the sporting field in a positive, supportive event.

This diversity helped make the first two Gay Games a resounding success. The philosophy of inclusiveness, not exclusivity, remains the foundation for Team San Francisco as it prepares for Gay Games III in Vancouver in 1990.

From its initial two organizational meetings, Team San Francisco has elected a steering committee of five men and five women to research the complexities of sending more than 1,000 participants as representatives of San Francisco to Vancouver. The Steering Committee clearly reflects the diversity of the community and is committed to help set up Team San Francisco under the basic philosophies of the Gay Games.

The Team SF Steering Committee is busy hammering out a set of by-laws and recommendations for the next general membership meeting in February. The committee is co-chaired by Ellen Abel (organizer of the Slammers women's basketball team) and Bob Puerzer (organizer of this year's Gay Run), and also includes Shawn Kelley (director of Gay Games II and member of SF Gay Tennis Federation), Sunny Mawson (tri-athlete and member of SF Frontrunners), Rick Windes (member and organizer of SF Tsunami Swim Club), Nancy Warren (organizer and member of the Slammers basketball team), Bernard Turner (organizer and member of the SF



Bernard Turner

Track & Field Club), Mark Lipinski (member and organizer of the SF Tsunami swim club), Mary Ann Powers (vice president of SF Frontrunners and former director of Gay Run), and Trish Hastings (tri-athlete).

SIMILAR GOAL

Surprisingly, as diverse as the committee may be, they all work well together and, individually, they all espouse a similar goal for Team San Francisco.

"We hope Team San Francisco will unify the community," explained Puerzer. Kelley and Turner echoed that remark, noting that they hope Team SF will be a strong sports resource

that will unify the already existing gay sports organizations.

Hastings hopes Team SF will last beyond the organizational efforts of Gay Games III. "It would be great if Team San Francisco could act as an umbrella sports center that would facilitate matching potential athletes with existing sports organizations and helping to plan major sporting events in the community around each other," he said.

Besides attempting to unify the San Francisco gay sporting community, the committee wants the community to get involved in Team SF.

(Continued on next page)

Bowlers Had a Great '87

by Richard McPherson

This past year has been a great and eventful year for our gay bowling community. The S.F. Scratch Invitational in August and the recent S.F. No Tap Invitational and IGBO Midyear meeting brought us national recognition as a really together tournament town. Everyone's hard work paid off.

Here are some of the major individual scoring achievements of 1987 by individuals: Arne Prince, Debbie Carmona and J.C. Halstead all shot 700 series (five 700s were shot all together, more than in any other single year); Randy Peterson's 290 game and Don Gambell's 270, 260 and 250 games. We're seeing a definite improvement in bowlers' league averages, with more 190 averages than ever before, the most remarkable improvement being David Arnold, who suddenly jumped from 182 to his current 200 average at Park Bowl. Equally impressive are Velda Gooden's 198 average and Debbie Carmona's 196 in the S.F. Women's Business League at Park Bowl.

The big news for 1988, although it's still at the discussion stage, is a gay scratch league for



(Photo: Photo Graphics/Darlene)

higher average bowlers. This first-of-its-kind league for S.F. looks as though it would be on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. (!) at Park Bowl. The team entering average range would be 520-540, that's a 173-180 average per bowler. This would be a non-

handicap league designed to attract the 170 and up average. Most current leagues have a social orientation; the proposed Tavern Guild 540 Scratch Trios would be for those of us who have a need for a competitive environment.

In the S.F. Women's Business League, Velda Gooden closed out the year in style shooting a 244, 245/678 set on Dec. 20. This brings her 30-game league average to an outstanding 198. The only other bowler to average higher than Velda is David Arnold. Another remarkable feat in

the same league was a 219/569 series by Laurie Baker, a 134 average bowler. Laurie shot an amazing 167 pins over her average for three games. That's one of the highest over-average accomplishments all year. Elsewhere in the league Dolly Casazza, 166 avg., shot a 218 and Cathy Peterson, 161, a 202.

J.C. Halstead was on a real roll in the Thursday Tavern Guild League at Park Bowl, shooting a 209, 220, 221 for a 650 series. Behind him was Mike Bulawit with a 619 on games of 114, 193, 202. Don Gambell continues to pound

the pocket, this time blasting a 266 game—the highest individual game for all leagues the week of Dec. 14-17. His three game series was 610.

Here are the 215+ games in the Tavern Guild Leagues at Park Bowl: Michael McPherson 241 (!!!), Roy Thorson (196 avg.) 237, Ken DeLong (159) 230, Glenn Judd (179) 222 and George Carrico (180) 221. Bowlers shooting two 200s during their three game set were: David Birch (170) 218, 204 and Ray Padua (158) 206, 217. Honorable mention (160 avg. and under): Kelly Fisher (149 avg.) 204, Robert Robinson (152) 203, Frank "Alexis" Romeo (144) 201 and Michael Gold (157) 201.

Special congratulations to Joyce Buttle (123 avg.) on her second 200 game this year. She shot 152, 205, 153 for a 510 series, 141 pins over her average.

Lowell Hills (169 avg.) had the only 600 series at Japantown Bowl the week of Dec. 13-18, when he shot 193, 201, 210/604, in the Wednesday Community League. The 210+ games at J.Town: Peter Abinanti (171 avg.) 233, Jesse Vargas (168) 226, Whirl Gray (164) 221, Jeff Reid (165) 212, Pat Hanlon (173) 210. In the Hawaii League, Michael Belt and his teammate Mel Ward had a good week of bowling: Belt (144 avg.) belted out 227, 203/568, assisted by Ward (140) with a 215. Honorable mention (160 avg. and under) Rob Anderson (135 avg.) shot 218/538; Mike Reist (153) 217, Phil Payton (134) 205 and Ell Jackson (156) 213.

Team

(Continued from previous page)

"Anybody can be a part of Team San Francisco," said Lipinski. "We want people to be involved regardless of whether it's in athletics or administration or the hundreds of other things there are to do to get San Francisco to Vancouver. This has got to be a true community effort," he added. "We not only need the athletes and athletic organizations to get involved, but the travel agents, the publicists, the community fundraisers, uniform makers. You name it, there's a place for everybody in Team San Francisco."

Powers, who co-chaired the Marathon event at Gay Games II and participated as a non-athlete, nonetheless "experienced all the spirit, the thrills and excitement of the Games that any athlete did. All the volunteers that participated in the Marathon and in all the other events were able to gain a great deal of satisfaction from their involvement in the Games, even though they did not compete for medals. Any level of participation is really what the Gay Games is all about."

Mawson concurred with Powers. At age 45, Mawson participated in Gay Games II on a dare, beginning her training for the grueling triathlon just nine weeks prior to the Games. She placed second in her age division, but her biggest thrill was getting involved and participating. She says, "Team SF will provide the opportunity to meet other people involved in a sport in a non-threatening environment. The Games are encouraging, helpful, and supportive, and we want to get the word out that it's not just for the young, male, star athlete. There is something everyone can do, including non-athletes."

NO RESTRICTIONS

Abel hopes that the Steering Committee will come up with the basic groundwork that will enable Team San Francisco to encourage everyone to get involved.

"We don't want the structure to be restrictive and put people off," she said. "We have to get people over that first hurdle and get them to participate. Everyone I've talked to in gay sports has had a real positive reaction to their involvement and hopefully Team San Francisco will help even more people be a part of that nurturing experience."

Agreeing with Abel's assessment is her basketball teammate, Warren. "Although I didn't participate in either of the previous Gay Games, I was a jock in school and I know the good feeling that comes from being a part of an athletic team," she said. "We want as many people as possible to experience the joy and positive affirmation of self that comes from participation in the Gay Games, for non-athlete and athlete alike."

Windes hopes San Francisco is the city that sends the largest delegation to Vancouver. "We owe it to Vancouver to bring a large team; and be supportive of their effort," she said. "Vancouver and all the other cities did a great job supporting the first two Gay Games here and in order to firmly establish the Games outside of San Francisco, we should try to bring as many people as possible. But in order to do so," she added, "we're going to need the input of the whole community... all the sports organizations, athletes, supporters, businesses, etc. We're working hard to get the groundwork laid for Team San Francisco, but ultimately the organization is only going to be as good as what the community brings to it."

The next meeting of Team San Francisco will take place Feb. 27 at 10 a.m. at Amelia's on Valencia Street. The Steering Committee will be presenting operational by-laws and it is hoped the first newsletter will be available. Ideas for the first fundraising event will also be discussed. Decide now what you can contribute to the San Francisco gay athletic community, either as an athlete or a non-athlete. For more information regarding Team San Francisco, call 626-1333 and get involved!

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CIAO AMORE!

Franciscans In 501s; A Conversation With Carlo: Wooly Finds Fun & Frustration Among The Italians

by Bob Woolhouse

"A husband to every wife; a wife to every husband." That ancient quotation summed up the multiple choice relationships of Julius Caesar and many other noblemen of the unholy Roman empire.

Now, 2,000 years later, the Italian gays we met seemed to be plugged into that same AC/DC socket.

Homosexuality, like birth control and divorce Italian style, is widely practiced, taken for granted and often joked about. A story going around Rome concerns a gift of expensive jewelry given to the Pope. "He loved the necklace and bracelet, but couldn't wear the matching pendant earrings. They were too much—even for the Vatican."

Still, breaking out of the closet and living an openly gay lifestyle, if they can find one, seems very difficult for young Italian gays. In the land of the Caesars, the old ways appear to die hard.

Eventually their point of view came across to us as we were visiting Italy with the Fraternal Order of Gays (FOG), led by tour guide, Nick Sempeti. During the days we devoted ourselves to the sightseeing of magnificent cas-



Bob Woolhouse with an aquatic acquaintance

ties, museums, cathedrals, palaces and ruins. We dutifully absorbed culture beyond physical endurance. During free time, we sought out the places listed in Spartacus Guide. It turned into a fascinating but elusive search.

There were only five gay bars listed for Rome, a city of 3 million people. The highly recommended two star Blue Angel had folded its wings and disappeared. Still in operation were the Hanger and the Alibi, both of which had good facilities, but they were mostly empty even late on weekend evenings. The two other places, which incidentally charged a \$14 door fee to new customers but not to regular ones, were full of Northern European tourists.

"Where do the native gays go?" I wondered, "at least the noncommercial ones who don't hang around the Spanish steps."

I began to find out one afternoon while reading a guide book in the spectacular garden of the Villa Borghese. A man of uncertain age and waistline sat down and began talking. When I responded, "No Italiano," he asked, "You San Francisco?"

After I nodded, he gave the international fuck symbol of thumb and finger encircling the moving forefinger of the other hand. "You wanna?" he leered.

Subtlety was not his strong suit. Neither was attractiveness, so I moved to another bench.

GAY GEOGRAPHY

Minutes later, someone else sat down and simply said, "Hello." He was an utter doll who looked as though he should be swept off his feet and carried back to San Francisco. In U.S. Customs he might not have been duty free, but this was not his souvenir!

After introductions, Carlo, who was a travel agent, and I played Gay Geography: Castro Village, Christopher St., Provincetown, Ibeza and Fire Island. We were progressing splendidly.

Suddenly the most unattractive woman in Rome approached and shoved in beside us. Assuming we were both Americans, she too gave us the finger pantomime while muttering, "Fuckee, fuckee."

"Can this be real?" I wondered, "a Stone Age hooker propositioning two obviously involved gay men." It was quite real but this was no time for social anthropology.

"Let's get out of here," I declared, dragging Carlo to his feet. She spit out a string of obvious obscenities.

"She says you don't like women," he translated rather loosely.

"Well, in some ways I don't. Do you?"

"I am married," he replied quietly, "and have a son."

"Would you like to come to my hotel," I asked ignoring the detour sign.

"I have to go back to work now."

"How about after work?"

"I have to go home to my family."

As I wondered why he was cruising the park, picking up American men, he murmured, "Could we meet tomorrow this time?"

I had to tell him that my tour was leaving Rome early the next morning. Another Paradise Lost.

"Arrivederci, Carlo," I said, sounding banal beyond belief.

"No, just ciao," he replied as he shook my hand and walked away.

Was this the Caesar syndrome—marriage and the family, but with boy friend on the side or perhaps just love in the afternoon, time and weather permitting? The longer I toured Italy, the more I thought it was.

At first, meeting Italian gays was rather catch as catch can. Even waiters, hotel desk clerks and Alitalia flight stewards usually came on as wholeheartedly hetero. Although not always the case, the attitude wasted a lot of our tourist time. Eventually we met gays at practically any place but at gay bars. They seemed to prefer to do their networking anywhere else: sidewalk cafes, beaches, hotel lobbies, and train compartments.

However, the ambiguous mixed bar does exist in a few places. We found a delightful one in Sorrento. A Robert De Niro type played guitar and sang such old native folksongs as "New York, New York" in perfect English. It could have been an Italian yuppie bar except that the sexes remained essentially separated.

While the women were more attentive to each other, the men remained together in conversational groups expressing nothing in a physical way. Two hours later we weren't sure if we had been in a women's bar, a predominately straight bar or an actual gay one. It was interesting to note that the place was recommended both by Spartacus and by American Express.

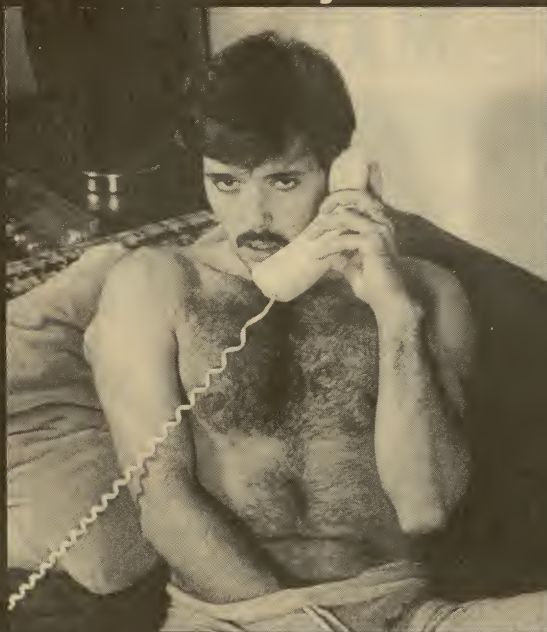
SICILIAN SATURDAY NIGHT

If gay life was elusive on the boot of Italy, it was practically nonexistent on the island of Sicily. One Saturday evening in Palermo, we were determined to check out every gay reference. The first listing, a pleasant trattoria, did turn out to be gay, simply because we of FOG were the only customers throughout the meal. The supposedly gay cinema was jammed with breedy teenagers seeing "Who's That Girl?" The two listed gay bars, for which no address was given, appeared not to exist at all. The cruising ground outside the Alitalia office was about as active as the Farallon Islands.

Suddenly we heard music and saw in the distance men in long gowns pushing a float with a statue of Marilyn Monroe on top. Closer inspection revealed that it was a decidedly raucous religious parade and the statue was that of the Madonna, the one from the original cast. We followed the

(Continued on next page)

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Ciao Amore!

(Continued from previous page)

procession to the historic Cathedral of Palermo for an evening mass that resembled a Roman circus.

There were great incantations by priests in high ecclesiastic drag, throngs of milling partygoers visiting and taking pictures, a newly added decor that was Hollywood glitz and attractive young men trotting around in Franciscan robes, under which showed plaid sport shirts and American jeans. It was lots more colorful than some lousy old gay bar. Cultural as hell, too.

So much for Saturday night in Sicily.

A vastly different scene, but still similar in some ways, was northeastern Italy, especially Venice and Trieste. Gays were everywhere but wearing their protective colorings: two well dressed young men strolled along the Rialto of Venice discussing a book of poetry. Obviously they had eyes only for each other. Obviously they also wore wedding bands on the appropriate finger.

A tall elegant man waved to me to share his table at a crowded cafe on the Piazza San Marco. His basso profundo made me think I had made a mistake, but the repeated touch of his hand on my shoulder indicated otherwise. An attractive man of about 30 played a deliberate game of kneezies on the back seat of the vaporetta (water omnibus) but disappeared when passengers filled adjacent seats. Later, ashore, he seemed to follow me for several blocks before disappearing again. It was a will-o'-the-wisp kind of cruising.

According to the locals, there are no gay or mixed bars in Venice. For an adventuresome night away from home, they take a half-hour train trip to the small city of Padova where a gay bar called the Vanity does exist. Cinderella time is 11:15 p.m.,



FOG director Nick Sempeti among the ruins of Pompeii

however, when they have to run for the last train back to Venice.

Talk about a lousy commute!

Another meeting place is the Lido (seashore), a narrow five-mile strip of land that separates the Venetian Lagoon from the Adriatic. After a 20-minute vaporetta ride, you find yourself at the old world Hotel du Baines, scene of the memorable *Death In Venice*. There in Thomas Mann's novel the aging homosexual, Gerald von Echenbach, died on the beach silently craving the beautiful, androgenous young man staying at the hotel, who seemed to promise everything but delivered nothing.

BARE ASS BEACH

Many decades later, things have changed on the Lido. Now, at the far end of the island is the

wide, desolate Alberoni Beach with sand dunes to match. There, Italian gays have their private rendezvous, unbothered by family or police. The action is plentiful and overt even though it seemed to be initiated usually by American and German tourists.

After several visits, I got around to talking to the men. They seemed knowledgeable about San Francisco and wanted to visit here, if they hadn't done so already. In the long run though, they seemed to prefer staying in Italy because of strong family ties.

"What do you believe in?" was a question that persisted. When I mentioned sex, money and the search for relationships, they seemed to understand but felt that they would not fit in here. Most thought they would remain

in Venice, marry and have one or two children.

They were a lot more desirous of children than wives, but in Italy it's a long-term package deal. After becoming fathers, they would be free to do as they pleased with other men as long as they were discreet about it. The idea of taking off to Rome with a male lover and getting a new job and apartment did not seem plausible to most of them.

Admittedly, these attitudes no longer permeate all of the country. In cosmopolitan Florence and industrialized Milan, gay life has a stronger foothold with bars, publications and activist organizations thriving. Away from those centers, however, the double life is chosen by many gay men.

Regarding AIDS, they were particularly aware of the situation in the U.S. and also in Italy. Newspapers often featured AIDS stories on the front pages. Still Venetian gays seemed to feel remote from the situation, possibly because of their limited sex-

ual contacts. The attitudes reminded me of those we had about six or seven years ago in San Francisco.

The use of a condom between men seemed funny to them, like "who's going to get pregnant?" At the beach it was an uphill battle to promote the idea of safe sex, especially in one instance when the condom was dropped in wet sand and had to be taken down to the Adriatic to be washed out. When it came back full of tiny, clinging seaweed particles, the battle was lost. "Oh, those crazy Americans," was the good natured response.

And so it went. The straight and narrow closet existence on one hand and the continental double life on the other. Many of the gays I met thought of it as the better part of two worlds.

A gay consciousness lurks there below the surface and activism is gaining support. Still, in the land of the Caesars, the idea of "A husband to every wife; a wife to every husband" may always be a part of Gaity, Italian Style. ●

Woolly's Words of Wisdom

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NOSTALGIA

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APPLIED ANATOMY II

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DETOUR

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APPLIED ANATOMY I

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